

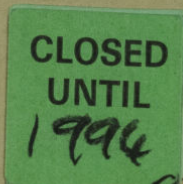


1944 - 46.
Gibraltar.

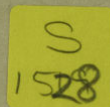
No. 88905/21

CO 91/524/4

SUBJECT.



Return of Evacuees.
Spanish Refugees.



C.O. 91/524/88905/21-1944-46

Previous

see 88802/2/41

88610/3/40

Special 88905/21^A/45.
Care Annex

Subsequent

1946

CO 91/ 524 / 4

red cards and who are all together seems to be of less urgency.

Chile

22.8.44.

3 Gov: 53 Secret

— 21.8.44.

4 M of H.

G.F. 940

— 7.9.44

4, Trans. to 88905/3/44.

Ad to
Secret annex
MS 95

5 Gov: Despatch 63 Top Secret

— 4.9.44.

The Governor says that there are some 473 Spanish political refugees in the Colony. There are also about 60 with the evacuees in Jamaica and, according to a statement furnished by Gibraltar, 242 in this country.

The questions that appear to arise are:-

- (a) Is Gibraltar to be open to political refugees from Spain;
- (b) What should be done with Spaniards now in Gibraltar;
- (c) What should be done with Spaniards evacuated from Gibraltar?

The Governor is discussing direct with the Governor of Jamaica what should be done with the Spaniards in Jamaica and the Governor of Gibraltar appears to have in mind that a distinction should be drawn between those who have a long-standing connection with Gibraltar and those who have not.

We have had visits here from half-a-dozen Spaniards who either claim a long association with Gibraltar or have married Gibraltarian women. In one case at least the wife and children have gone back to Gibraltar, on lists sent by Gibraltar. In other cases the wives and children who have red cards have already gone to Northern Ireland (i.e. are red card holders and are accepted by the Ministry of Health as having a claim to repatriation).

There is a good deal to be said for admitting the claim of everyone compulsorily evacuated from Gibraltar to return there and, having returned to the status quo, which was disturbed by the threat of enemy action, to start from the position

he

he was in before the removal to argue his case for remaining in Gibraltar. This would include, for instance, a group of Poles who were playing in the orchestra at the Rock Hotel and now want to be returned. But the objections to this procedure are that Gibraltar has not the room to accommodate all who lived there before the evacuation, and that, in particular, accommodation in La Linea, which presumably was used by some of these people, is not now available. There seems some reason to believe that a number of the Spaniards in this country - it may be the majority - have settled down and may not claim return to Gibraltar at all.

Mr. Acheson last week asked me to meet the Home Office and the Ministry of Health and discuss this matter with them. But Mr. Adams is away until the end of next week and Mr. Gedling has left the Gibraltar Department. I should prefer, therefore, to wait until Mr. Adams returns. Moreover, as the Home Office may be difficult, I should like to know what we want before meeting them. I suggest that the following line should be aimed at:-

(a) The Governor should accept the return of all Spaniards who have a record of employment in Gibraltar before the Civil War in Spain.

(b) The Governor should accept all Spaniards whose wives and children, if any, have already returned to Gibraltar and should settle with them on the spot.

(c) Gibraltar should accept all Spaniards whose wives and children have been transferred to Ireland with a view to return.

(d) No decision should now be made in respect of the remainder, beyond a decision that they are not to return to Gibraltar. Either they will be absorbed where they are and we shan't hear from them, or we shall get representations which will indicate how many there are who desire to go to Gibraltar. There are recorded a number who desire to go to other places, e.g. Tangier, but the main thing at the moment is to get an answer to the broken family question.

(e)

also
6
Ireland

(e) As regards those political refugees now in Gibraltar and those in this country or in Jamaica with a problem of disposal, we might sound the Foreign Office on the Governor's suggestion of some Latin American state (the Ministry of Health suggested Mexico). This will obviously be complicated and may lead us nowhere.

If these general lines can be approved, I think the first thing is to put our ideas to the Governor and, as a matter of priority and urgency, to settle the matter of those Spaniards with a long Gibraltarian association and those who have married Gibraltarian women.

As regards the question of new political refugees from Spain, (5) has arrived before this minute was complete. It is clearly a very difficult question, without some closer knowledge of the extent of the suffering that is likely to be created in Spain. Mr. Norton-Amor, the Registrar of the Supreme Court, Gibraltar, was in here the other day and according to him, opinion in Gibraltar was that there would be further civil war in Spain.

Obviously, it is going to be very difficult to make a decision to close Gibraltar which can be maintained in the face of all conditions that might arise. I can only suggest at this stage a departmental discussion with the Foreign Office to find out what they think is likely to happen and what body or authority should decide what should be done with any political refugees. It seems quite clear that Gibraltar cannot accommodate them and if they must come through Gibraltar, ships and a place of disposal will have to be ready.

Stiles

14.9.44.

Mr. Miles.

I think it is difficult to lay down anything very definite about conditions before you have your talk with the Home Office and the Ministry of Health. I think however that the suggestions you make at A might be a basis for discussion. (The Home Office will probably have much to say on the prospect of Spanish subjects remaining in this country.)

I think you also might consult the F.O. on No. 5. I cannot help thinking that this and Mr. Amor's remarks are unduly alarming. There is of course always a chance that the present regime in Spain may change but is it likely that the change will be so violent that we shall have political refugees on our hands again.

- WSTK
6. Palmer - 99047/166/71 ^{15/9/44} - 18.9.44
7. Note of Discussion 25.9.44
orig on 88905 c /44
- 8 To Dawson — 25.9.44
orig on 88905 c /44
- 9 M/H - Cohen III F — 26.9.44,
9, Trans. to 88905/3/44
- 10 M/H. - Adams — 2.10.44.

Bu 1 Wck. Am/3
fio

10/10

4th annex
m.s. 25

26 F.O.

WR 1237/1208/G — 5.10.44

Mr. Acheson.

You will see that the Foreign Office is considering

- (a) the removal of the Spaniards from Gibraltar;
- (b) the removal of the Spaniards from this country;
- (c) the possibility of further refugees as a result of further disturbances in Spain.

As regards (c) I don't think we can do more at present than has been done, i.e. warn the Refugees Dept. of the Foreign Office that the Governor thinks the problem may arise. The only practical way of dealing with it if it does arise and if things are so bad they it is not possible in common humanity to stop people coming into Gibraltar, is to have ships ready to take them somewhere else. We cannot, of course, do that until there are some more immediate symptoms.

On this point we might reply to the Governor as in draft.

As regards the Spaniards in this country, I think that we should start now to agree with the Governor the names of those who can be scheduled for ultimate repatriation to Gibraltar and for permission to establish themselves in Gibraltar. The Governor has already agreed with the Governor of Jamaica to accept some of the Spaniards from Jamaica into Gibraltar. We do not know on what basis.

On this point we might write to the Governor as in draft herewith.

As

As regards the tendency here to write down the chances of disorder in Spain, it seems to me that it is as well to be prepared for the worst. Moreover, they must have a good idea in Gibraltar of what is going on, and Mr. Norton-Amor, for instance, told me as a fact that certain Spanish families had already made their arrangements to move into Gibraltar when the trouble started.

Phies

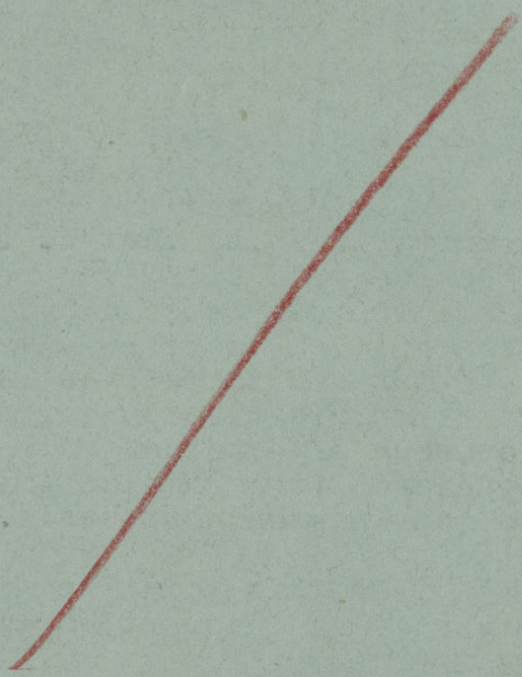
6.10.44.

27/11/44
ms. 15.

27 Gov. Tel: 992 T.S

— 23.11.44.

See 1945 Sheet



1945

4

28 Gov: Tel: 7 See: —

4. 1. 45.

Mr Luke.

The F.O. (Mr Mason) have not re-bound a home for the 470 odd Shanians in Gibraltar. I have today spoken to Mr Mason who will review the position before the Gov^r. arrives.

Meanwhile I repins an answer (see draft below) and the Shanians in England will have to be dealt with some time (see further draft).

Certainly the problem of the Shanians in Gib. will come into the Commissioner's field. Ethics 10/1

Sir A. Dawe.

There seem to be three problems dealt with on this file, and I think it would be useful to have them disentangled at some convenient opportunity. They are:

- (a) the Governor's enquiry at (5) about the policy to be adopted by the Gibraltar Government with regard to political refugees, in the event of further troubles in Spain;
- (b) the question of the ultimate return of the Spanish nationals, formerly in Gibraltar, who are at present in this country;
- (c) the disposal of the Spanish nationals, numbering 473, who are at present in Gibraltar.

As regards (a) the Foreign Office were consulted and gave us the reply at (26). No action was, however, taken on this letter and I am inclined to think that it would be inadvisable to adopt Mr. Miles's suggestion that we should try to get off a reply to the Governor before he comes to this country. I would prefer to hold up the matter further and, in the meantime, to obtain from the Foreign Office confirmation that the position remains as stated in (26).

As regards (b) it is clear that this is a question which should be considered by the Commissioner, when he is appointed. My own feeling is that we ought to go very slow about these Spaniards as there will be severe criticism if we send them back to Gibraltar ahead of the Gibraltarians.

As regards (c) the Governor has recently returned to the charge in (26). The Foreign Office are doing what they can to find somewhere for them and the latest position is explained in Mr. Miles's minute above. I think that it would be as well

/to

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to write again at this stage to the Foreign.
Office emphasising the urgency of finding a
decision on this question and I think that
we might do this at once, leaving any
communication to the Governor to be made
when he reaches this country.

L. V. L.

15th January, 1945.

Sir George Gater.

In view of the Governor's
impending visit, you may care to glance
at this. Mr. Luke's minute sets out the
points clearly: and I agree with his
suggestions for handling them.

? Proceed accordingly.

W. J. D.

16. 1. 45.

L. V. L.

17.1

at me.

~~29~~
~~30~~

To Messon. (1-0). cons.

To Messon (1-0). cons.

} 14. 1. 45.

31 F.O.

WR. 70/16/48

19.1.45.

31A Note of Discussion

24.1.45

Mr. B.D. Edmonds.

There are in Gibraltar at the present time some 470 Spanish political refugees, most of whom came to the Colony about 1937 during the Spanish civil war. Their presence in the Colony is causing a good deal of discontent, and in view of the fact that there is a large number of Gibraltarian evacuees now in Northern Ireland who are unable to return owing to lack of accommodation. The Governor is now in this country and is pressing us very strongly to find an alternative hom for these Spaniards. We took up the matter with the Foreign Office, whose views are at (31).

You will see that the Foreign Office suggestion is that these people should be settled, at least temporarily, in some other British Colonial territory. I do not myself feel that this is a very happy suggestion. We have quite recently moved a number of similar refugees from Jamaica, and there seemed to be objections to filling up the Jamaica camp with another party of the same sort of people. Cyprus might appear to be a suitable choice, as providing the Mediterranean background, but in the present political condition in that Colony the introduction of these Spaniards would appear to be open to strong objection.

We shall be grateful for any suggestion you may have, but prima facie I am inclined to think that we had better tell the Foreign Office that we do not regard transfer to Colonial territory as an advisable solution to this problem, and that it would be preferable that they should explore possibilities in Buenos Aires or Mexico in accordance with a suggestion in paragraph 6 of Mr. Monson's letter.

Lev L

25.1.45.

Mr Poynton

6

I agree with Mr Luke
that it would be preferable
to explore the possibility of
sending these Spanish
refugees to Buenos Aires or
Mexico rather than trying to
find a home for them
within the Colonial Empire.

Colonies generally are
anxious to get rid of their
displaced persons and the
suggestion that none should
be sent to them would not
be welcome.

Apart from the objections
on political grounds to sending
these people to Cyprus, that
Colony has agreed to accept
a number of refugee Jews from
Rumania if they can find
their way to Turkey. It does
not seem as if we will
manage to get there but the
offer will have to remain
open.

Ghana is very anxious to
get rid of the Italian
internees sent to her from
West Africa and as Mr Luke
points out there would be objections
to sending another party to Ghana
similar to those who have
recently left. Incidentally
Gibraltar Camp has now been
handed over to the War Office

for a period of five years at least -
and it is doubtful whether in any
case accommodation for this party
would be available in Jamaica.

R. J. Edmonds²⁹

We can, I am sure, rule Palestine out in the
present state of internal conditions.

~~East Africa~~ ^{Jamaica} & Cyprus - I agree with Mr. Edmonds.
~~but am joining~~

East Africa, too, is trying to get rid of
refugees & evacuees.

Mauritius is shortly getting rid of a large
number of Czech Jews, but has just had a
serious cyclone & ~~so~~ Mr. Sidebottom agrees
that we could not reasonably approach Govt.
now.

I can think of nowhere else & agree that
the South American republics are the natural
home for Spaniards. I hope we shall
persuade Go. to try that tack first.

Ans. 29
1

Sir A. Dawe.

You will remember that, during the course
of our talk with General Eastwood last week, we
discussed with him the questions of -

- (a) the Spanish refugees now in Gibraltar;
- (b) the policy to be adopted in regard to refugees
in the event of further disorders in Spain.

As regards (a) I have drafted a reply to (31) on the
lines we discussed, and in the light of the Defence
Department's minutes above.

As regards (b) you will remember that I read
out to General Eastwood the letter from the

/Foreign

Foreign Office at (26). The Governor was not much disturbed at the somewhat vague attitude adopted by the Foreign Office, as he was quite clear that in view of his defence responsibilities and of the shortage of accommodation in the Colony, it would be essential to close the gates on any would be refugees.

I have drafted a letter, therefore, explaining his attitude for the information of the Foreign Office, but not asking their concurrence.

Levl

30th January, 1945.

Alm
Aps
31.1

Mtch issue
of letters with
R 223 please
See 31A discussion with Govt
in the White Paper
order Dec 1/2

Lfd annexes ms 32
33

To P. Mason
P. Mason

Top. Secret
Secret

1-2-45

34 F.O.

WR 194/16/48

29.1.45

Mr Luke to Sec 34.

Encl

Part 5. Others 5
2 15

YH1 annex
msw

35

F.O.

WR 383/16/48

15.2.45

36

F.O.

WR 345/16/48

17.2.45

~~37~~

F.O.

WR 484/16/48

19.2.45

Mr Luke

to see.

? about developments.

On 15.2.45

2

LEVL

20/2 at ML

~~38~~

F.O.

WR 508/16/48

19.2.45

Mr. Luke.

To see 37 and 38.

As regards the Spaniards in Gibraltar, I think we must leave it to Mr. Mason, reminding him as appropriate.

The suggestion, however, that Venezuela is ready to take immigrants is interesting and might form a possible opening for Gibraltarians. We have had no applications from any Gibraltarians to go outside the British Empire, but it has always been suggested that some were willing to go to South America. I understand that there are papers in the office which indicate that Brazil, too, is anxious to have immigrants. I have asked for these papers. I think it might be worth while opening up the matter with the Foreign Office but I am not sure at the moment whether it would be better to start with enquiries about possible applicants before we try to find out whether and on what terms they could be received. Subject to your views, I think we might try the latter first.

G.C. Miles

24.2.45.

19/3
See 3h
I agree that we can leave the negotiation with Venezuela to the Foreign Office; the file might be brought up in 14 days to enquire from Mr. Mason what the position is.

I should be inclined not to take any action with regard to the Gibraltarians until we see the outcome of the proposals for the disposal of the Spaniards. It may be clearer then also to what extent the Gibraltarians are prepared to consider opportunities for emigration.

LEVL

5th March, 1945.

al ma

39 P. Mason

WR 484/16/48

6.3.45

Mr. Lake

Will this matter be discussed with the Intergovernmental Committee for Refugees or shall I now prepare the memo. required by Mr. Mason?

So far, we have not referred to the Treasury. The chance of arranging the transportation of the Spaniards would be regarded more favourably by the Committee if the question of financing the move had already been decided.

? Refer to the Treasury. A.K. Régier $\frac{1}{3}$

Discuss particulars required
with Mr. Mason. See telegram
attached.

Phineas $\frac{13}{3}$

40 To Gov. Gibraltar - Tel. No. 169 — 13.3.45

41 R. L. James (Treasury) - 13.3.45

Treasury also require fuller details.

26/3
2/ up one week, if no reply to (40)

A. K. Régier $\frac{14}{3}$

42 F.O. WR 685/16/48 — 21.3.45

Mr. Luke.

Please see 39 and 41.

The question is who is going to be responsible for paying expenses in regard to the movement of the Spaniards in Gibraltar to Venezuela, if it is found possible to arrange this? It seems to me that there is no alternative to putting the burden on to the Gibraltar Government. The Foreign Office do not want to pay, naturally, as they cannot recover from Spain. This is not a part of the cost of the evacuation of the civil population and I personally can see no grounds for putting it on the British tax-payer. If you agree, I do not think any action is necessary

at

at the moment. When we know that these people can be accepted by Venezuela - and at present we are waiting for particulars from Gibraltar - we can consider how to get them there - whether by M.W.T. or by paying for passages in foreign ships - and we shall then have to put our arrangements to the Gibraltar Government for agreement and suggest to them that they should pay.

G.C. Miles

23.3.45.

*Ms. Miles
File recovered
from Mr. Luke 2/9/45*

43 Gov: Sav: Tel: 130 Secret

17.3.45

Mr. Luke.

This is clearly going to be very difficult. I have had a word with Mr. Mason about 43 and we agreed that I should send it over to him without much comment and let him have a chance of seeing it and letting us know his reaction.

answer
The question of finance has been raised. I don't think we need ~~alter~~ this at the moment. I think, myself, that unless some international organisation is willing to help on the footing that these stateless people should not fall on Gibraltar, the cost must fall on the Gibraltar Government. There is no reason why it should fall on the British tax-payer. The cost will be the passages and possibly some cash advance and clothing in preparation for emigration to Venezuela.

We must, I think, make an effort to get all these families reunited and to send them all to Venezuela, if they are going there.

We

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We must also, I think, as soon as possible, give the Governor something that he can publish showing the arrangements that are to be made. Probably, if this is done, a number of the Spaniards will disappear and the problem will be eased to that extent.

I can't help feeling that Gibraltar has been a little casual about this. We gathered that there were some 470 Spaniards to be removed. It now turns out that there are 461 Spanish men, apparently not really political refugees at all, with wives and families all over the place. The resulting number, from the point of view of emigration has not yet been determined, and the Gibraltar Government apparently do not propose to discover it except in regard to families at La Linea. I think we must ask the Governor to ascertain the full number, including families everywhere, and I think we might also send a telegram as in draft to make sure that Sir Findlater Stewart is brought into this problem. *ESL:es*

27.3.45.

44 To P. Mason W/c 43 r encl. Cons
29.3.45

By.

11 am Friday

45 *Gov. Lib Top Sec Del. 170 4/4/45*
Transfer to secret. annex (MSS)

~~46~~ To Gib: Tel: 211 Sec:

6.4.45

I saw Mr. Mason today. He asked for a telegram to be sent at once to Gibraltar asking for information regarding the families of all the men in the list below (43). This telegram has been sent. Mr. Mason said that his next step would be to approach the Inter-Governmental Committee, and this he would do at once. If they accepted responsibility, the question of finance would be settled. If they did not accept responsibility, the question would arise for discussion. We both felt that ~~it~~ would probably have to fall on the Gibraltar Government.

the cost
is
In either case Mr. Mason felt that, apart from settling with Venezuela and making arrangements for transport, the American and Spanish Governments would have to be informed. He estimated that negotiations would now take something in the neighbourhood of two months. As regards families accompanying the men in the list, he agreed that it ~~will be~~ very desirable that all these families should be reunited and should go to Venezuela together. Difficulties might arise, however, in regard to those who were not in or near Gibraltar. I raised the possibility of some public statement being made in Gibraltar of the Government's intentions so that possibly some of these men at least might find ways of rejoining their families without waiting for compulsory removal. Mr. Mason felt, however, that it would be premature to make any statement at the moment, particularly as it might attract the attention of the Spanish Government.

Mr. Mason will keep us informed of the result of his action and there seems nothing we can do here at the moment.

But I think that we should ask the Governor, assuming that arrangements can be made for emigration to Venezuela, under what powers he would act in compelling the Spaniards to leave Gibraltar for Venezuela.

Shiles,

6.5.45.

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Jan 194

10. 11. 11

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Be. 1 weil.

Liv L
13/4/5 - a l m a

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Mr. Luke and I met Mr. Paul Mason and Sir Herbert Emerson on 19/4 and the position was discussed. Sir Herbert Emerson pointed out certain difficulties from the point of view of the inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees. He will be replying to 47 and we shall get a copy of the reply. The main point that emerged from the discussion was the high percentage of Spaniards shown in the list below 43 who have their families in La Linea and in other parts of Spain. Many of these went to Gibraltar in 1936 and are employed in skilled trades in Gibraltar. It was felt that the Foreign Office should first make an approach to Madrid to discover whether the Spanish Government would agree to let these people return to Spain, letting by-gones be by-gones. If the Spanish Government were willing to do so it was felt that the happiest solution would be for these Spaniards to return to Spain; as most of them have their families there already, it was not felt that there would be any real difficulty. Those who were unwilling to do so would then have to be dealt with by compulsory migration in some form. But it was not felt that the question of compulsory migration could usefully be tackled until the question of the return to Spain had been cleared up. Mr. Mason will take up the matter through the Foreign Office with Madrid and we shall be informed of progress.

B.L. 3 JKL

Stiles

20.4.45.

14/5
48 Gov: Sav: Tel: 190 Secret

18.4.45

The greater number (172) have wives & children in La Linea + a fairly large percentage in Tangier & Algeciras. 7 have wives + families already in different Spanish towns.

48 re: 40s.
? Copy to P. Mason (Addressees on 47) Ref: 44
with comp. A.K. Régnier 7/5
Yes, send copy. On 43 7/5 etc

49

To P. Mason. w/c. 48 incl. Stamp
7.5.45

B' fwd. v min. of 20/4.

E. Mason 12/5

Sh. M. to M. Mason
F.O. is writing d/o to
Madrid - copy is going to
us. B.u. 1 week. 4/5
received

Stirling 14/5

B' fwd. v above.

E. Mason 22/5

50 F.O.

WR 1174/16/48 — 19.5.45

b.u. in two weeks if
answer from Madrid not received
first.

Mary Fisher 29. v.

51 Postal & Tel: Intercept — 15.3.45

Miss Fisher to see.

Also B/u.

A. H. Régnier 12/5.

B.u. 3 weeks.

Mary Fisher
12.6

52 F.O.

2 4470/1508/6

1.6.45

and by v. min. of 29/5 on (50).

Shaw 13/6

Miss Fisher

of the three names, only "Herrera Saavedra -
José" appears on the roll enclosed under
(48). Nor can I trace them on the lists under
(6) of Spaniards in N.I.

A.H. Réquier 13/6.

Clearly neither Dodo or Muñoz are considered by
Gib. as refugees or Spaniards. We can easily
keep tabs on Herrera Saavedra: ? telg. to Govt.
warning him not to let Muñoz return &
Tanquer without notifying us? (Can he stop him?)
or if we can't
any when they

MF. 13.6.

Miss Fisher.

I think that we ought to bring the
Gibraltar Government into the picture at this stage.
I have, in a personal letter, told Mr. Stanley
something of what is happening but I think it would
be helpful to them to know what action is being done.

Would you find out from the Refugee
Department of the Foreign Office whether there would
be any objection to my sending copies of (47) and
(50) to the Colonial Secretary in Gibraltar. If
they see no objection perhaps you would write to
Mr. Stanley in my absence with reference to the
savingram

savingram at (48) sending him the Foreign Office correspondence.

Liv!

15th June, 1945.

RMC

Mr. Mason has no objection at all but says an answer from Madrid is on its way & we might as well wait for it. If it doesn't materialise:-
6.u. 28.vi.

(52) 4 minutes transferred to 88905/21(A)/45 (48.25)

D. L. Lumbson
25/6

53 R.C.S. Stanley S.O.13/86 - 18.6.45

54 To P. Mason F.O. — 9.7.45

Minute of 12.6.45

? in view of 54

in a week.

H. F. Kilminster
10.7.45

SS F.O. - Mason

WR 1922/16/48 — 11.7.45

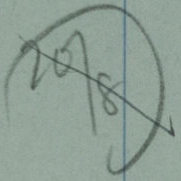
Mr. Stanley and I went over to the Foreign Office today to discuss with Mr. Mason and a representative of the Western Department the general problem of the 470 Spanish refugees in Gibraltar.

It was agreed that no further action is possible until the final reply from Madrid is received. We shall then presumably know how we stand in relation to the Spanish Government, whether they are prepared to give assurances in respect of these refugees or whether they are not; in any case we shall then be in a position to take further action. If the reply from Madrid is favourable, we thought that the next step would be to make this known to the Spaniards concerned and to tell them that, if they are not prepared to take advantage of it, it will be necessary for the British authorities to arrange for their transfer elsewhere. Before this statement could be made, however, it would be necessary to make sure that we could in fact give effect to it, and it would be necessary for the Foreign Office to take up with the Ambassador in Caracas the question of the possibilities of settlement in Venezuela. At the same time the Foreign Office would take up the matter with the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees, with a view to persuading them to undertake the operation. If the reply from Madrid was unfavourable, the Foreign Office would similarly take up the matter with Venezuela and the Inter-governmental Committee with a view to arranging for the transfer of the refugees.

Mr. Mason said that, as soon as a further reply was received from Madrid, he would take up the

matter

14
matter further with us. Bring up one month.


L^{er}L

20th July, 1945.

al m^a

56 F.O. WR 2192/16/H8 → 11.8.45

The British Embassy in Madrid has approached the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Spain on the possibility of the Spanish refugees in Gib: being allowed to return. The Under Sec. has promised to look into the question & furnish a list of refugees in Gib: who would not be welcomed back & would have to undergo proceedings.

As it is, the instructions issued from the Ministry, covering the return of refugees in general, were very restrictive. (Enclosures to 53)
? We must await further correspondence

from Madrid, through the F.O.

A.H. Régnier 21/8

I don't think we knew that the Governor of Gibraltar was in direct contact with Madrid? It is not very important in this case, as he only sent Madrid copies of the Sp. Consulate's regulations for allowing reentry of refugees: but I think we might have been informed.

x/ We must clearly await the list of refugees who can't go back, ^{as} promised by the Sp. govt. Meanwhile? it would be enough to acknowledge Mr Hendersons letter by telephone. Mf. 22-8.

As at X.

Level
3/18/55 alone

I spoke to Mr Henderson, who does not feel that we can give the Refugees any assurances yet. He will send the list, on its arrival.

3/9 B/up 10 days to enquire from F.O.

A.H. Régnier 23/8

57 Sub Desp 79- 238.45₁₅
58 Sub 3pm Secret 27.8.45

1. I have spoken again to Mr Henderson, but no further communication has been received from Madrid, F.O. will remind on this.
2. Mr Henderson could not recommend that the Spaniards - Sub: should return to Spain. There are however, negotiations for the possible entry of Spanish refugees from Portugal, to Venezuela & Mexico. (see 47) • Mr Henderson is also looking up this point.

A.K. Rdgner 3/9.

59 Gov: Tel: 455 /mm — 8.9.45
59A R.O.

At (57) the Governor evinces alarm at the sharp Spanish reaction to republican V. Day manifestations by the Spanish refugees in the Colony. (58) carries the

story

story further. The Spanish Consul-General has hinted at the possibility of withdrawing recently increased facilities of access to the Campo and of restrictions on the entry of Spanish labour into Gibraltar. For these reasons, coupled with Gibraltarians' feelings about Spaniards taking up accommodation, the Governor is increasingly anxious to get rid of the refugees and asks us to press on with the Venezuela plan.

At present we are still awaiting the promised list of refugees who can not return from Madrid. I very much doubt whether this is likely to materialize in the immediate future. I am myself inclined to suspect that the Governor is unnecessarily perturbed by Spanish reactions to the refugees' behaviour: it is surely the last moment at which sanctions are likely to be applied.

I have suggested on another file that the Western Department of the Foreign Office might be consulted about the prospects of improvement in the refugee situation in the more remote future. If there seems any chance of this the Governor might hold on; but if not we must first try to encourage the Foreign Office to expedite the arrival of the Madrid list and then go ahead with the inter-governmental Committee on refugees.

May Fisher.

60 F.O. - WR 2192/16/48

14.9.45
19.9.45

I agree with Miss Fisher in feeling that the Governor of Gibraltar is perhaps unduly disturbed at the possibilities of action by the Spanish authorities. I do not feel, in general, that the Spanish Government is at present in any position to take action against British interests. Nevertheless, these incidents do strengthen the case for disposing of these Spanish refugees as soon as possible and I suggest that we should send copies of (59), (57) and (58) to the Foreign Office expressing the hope that we shall be able to get a decision in this matter

very

very shortly and at the same time letting them know that General Eastwood will be in this country shortly and will probably want to discuss the matter with them.

J.E.V.L.

24th September, 1945.

10725/9/45
alone

61 % F.O. w/c ends as draft.
29-9-45

62 Gov. 3p.w. Secret — 21.9.45
{ Notes for discussion with Governor.

Miss Fisher.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for a conference at the Foreign Office, in which General Eastwood could take part, on the following subjects:-

- (a) The Spanish refugees in Gibraltar.
- (b) The question whether the Spanish Government would agree to making available some of the neutral ground on their side of the frontier for sports facilities such as a race course.

As

As regards (a) the relevant papers are
~~attached~~ on this list.

As regards (b) we have not hitherto had any correspondence on this subject, but the Governor has explained to me that the problem is as follows. As you know, before the war there was a substantial area of so-called neutral ground immediately to the North of the North face of the Rock. When the war came, the British authorities quietly took over half the neutral ground for the air port; the Spaniards, on the other hand, filled up their half of the neutral ground with defensive works, and there the position remains. This has a most unfortunate effect on the wellbeing of the civil population, as the British half of the neutral ground was occupied before the war by football grounds, race course, etc. There is no outlet now for recreation or exercise for the civil population and General Eastwood is much concerned at the position. What he wants to propose is that the Spanish authorities should be persuaded to lease some of their part of the neutral ground for use for the recreation of the Gibraltarian civil population.

The best course will be to arrange this meeting when General Eastwood returns from Scotland in the week after next. It should presumably be at a fairly high level, and you will no doubt arrange that both Mr. Martin and yourself should accompany General Eastwood. I suggest that the best course might be for Mr. Martin to write to the appropriate Assistant Under Secretary of State at the Foreign Office to suggest the holding of the meeting.

LEL
6th October, 1945.

63 F.O. WR 2533/14/48 — 14.9.45

64 F.O. Z 11054/18/H1 — 6.10.45

65 To F.O. — Ans 64 — 12.10.45

Mr. Martin.

Re meeting at Re F.O.
is confirmed for 11 am. 16th Oct
in Mr. Boyar Miller's room (41)
We are to discuss a) Re disposal
of 12 Spanish refugees in Gibraltar
b) Re use of Re neutral ground between
Gib. & Spain. c) is set out in
Mr. Luker minute of 6.10.45
regard to a): -

There are roughly 454 of these refugees
in Gib. (Re number usually given
is 470 but from [48] on Re file 458
seems more in mark. These have
some 847 dependents of whom 570
are in La Linea, 152 in Tangier,
17 in N. Ireland. 8 in Gib. & 12
rest mostly scattered about various
parts of Spain. The question "what
we are to do with them. Then
are 3 possibilities: -
(i) Leave them where they are. In favour
they include a large number of
skilled workmen, masons, carpenters etc

Against: a) They take up accommodation
needs for Gib. b) They are an embarrassment
in relations with Spain (all the more since
their republican manifestations after VE day)
c) - a new complaint. They stir up trouble
locally & put ideas into the Gib.'s heads.
(cf Memorandum No 2 behind 62)

(ii) Send them back to Spain. Pro: a
considerable number came in right at
the beginning of the civil war & therefore
may be presumed not to be considered
particularly disreputable. Con: When any
do try to go back the results are most
discouraging (they get beaten up etc)
cf esp. paper behind 53.

(iii) Send them to Venezuela or Mexico

At present (cf Mr. Laker minute of 20.vii) we
are in principle awaiting a list from Madrid
of those Spaniards who would not be allowed
to go back. (I think myself we shall be a
long while in getting it.) It is suggested
that the others should then be told that they
must either go back or be transferred
elsewhere. Before doing this, all the more
if now seems acceptable) the F.O. wd. have to
go into the matter both with Venezuela & with
the Inter Governmental Com on Refugees.

MF
13.10

A copy of the note of discussion has
been kept back for the Governor.
Mr. Martin to see. ^{but, three weeks} ~~for it~~

18
Mary Fisher
17-X.

J. H. M.

20/10/45

alone

66 F.O.

24-10-45.

67 F.O. (Henderson)

24-10-45.

orig: on
88905/45

68 Gov: Tel: 569

27-10-45

I spoke to Mr. Henderson on 67. & we
agreed that it didn't come to much. The
F.O. had done nothing whatever during
the last 10 days. I suggested that without
waiting for the list of impossibles
from Madrid he should pursue the
Venezuelan & Mexican possibilities. He
seemed a little nervous about this but
said he would try. I have sent him
a copy of G. 6. Telegram 569 which
refers to strengthen his hand.

R.203. Please put a copy of 36 (ii)
of G. 6. 569 on his file; & b.u. 10 days.

Mary Fisher
alone
30-X

69 To G. 6. Tel: 588 Sec: & Pers:

30-10-45.

69, orig: on 88905/45

B' fwd v. min 17-X & 30-X.

Ritchie

8.11.45.

I think that an new p.p. to go on his file. I have written
to Henderson. R. u. 1 week. Mary Fisher

70. F.O. WR 3134/16/48 _____ 10.10.45.

71 To F.O. I. C. Henderson _____ 6.11.45

Blup 10 days, if nothing in either way.

A.K. Régnier 14/11.

72 F.O. WR 3146/16/48 _____ 16-11-45.

Blup a week. Mrs. Fisher has spoken to
Mr Henderson.

A.K. Régnier 25/11

73 F.O. WR 3392/16/48. _____ 30.XI.45

This does not get us anywhere, though it will
be useful if the Intergovernmental Ctr on Refugees
does take over the Spaniards who are not
allowed to go back to Spain.

Blup a week.

A.K. Régnier 3/12

B' fwd v. min $\frac{27}{11} + \frac{3}{12}$.

Sketch

8.12.45.

Mr Luce

You wanted to see these papers
when they came up. As you will observe
the F.O. is crawling ahead at a leisurely
pace but in the right direction. I
don't know what we can apply much
pressure at the moment.

Mf. 10.12.

Blup 14 days

File

12/11/45

74 Gibraltar 129 ——— 13. 12. 45 19

I spoke to M. Henderson. He had had no answer from the Americans (73) but promised that he would stir them up. (I pointed out that they had already had more than a month to consider it.) Nor had he had the Ambassadors recommendations.

(Sgd) Miss Foster
3/12.

75. To J. L. Henderson L.O. - (w/c 74) - 19/1/46.

Mr Henderson rang up 19/1/46. The Americans have agreed that we should approach Intergovernmental C'ttee F.O. are in process of writing about financial side etc.

(Sgd) A.K. Regnier 21/1.

B.U. one month if nothing heard before

(Sgd) Miss Foster
21/1
at once.

See 1946 notes

orig. mins on 1946 file

C.O.

DRAFT AND RECORD COPY

REGISTERED No.

88905/21

LETTER
SENT

DATE

18/1/46

DRAFT

MR.

MR.

MR.

Fisher fs 3.1

ANS
~~I am informed that in 1943 expenditure amounting to £142,34d. was expended~~
i

For Miss Fisher's signature.

Dear Mr. Henderson,

as I promised on 12 telephone,
I enclose a copy of the most recent despatch from the Governor of Gibraltar on the subject of the Spanish refugees. ~~as I promised on the telephone.~~ I see that it is to Sir Victor Mallet, as you surmised, that a copy has already gone; and that the Governor he had promised/to address the Foreign Office with his recommendations. I am not troubling you with the various enclosures to the ~~xxxxxxx~~ despatch, since their content is, I think, adequately summarised in the despatch itself.

ENCLOSURES

Copy of 74

FURTHER ACTION

*Rec'd. to Mr. Laker
for information*

To

*1. L. Henderson Esq.
Refugees Dept.
F.O.
3. Cleveland Row
S.W.1*

I need not remind you that it is getting on for three months since this peculiarly tiresome problem was

/discussed

[4264A] Wt. 11439/415 50m. 5/45 C.N.Ld. 748

at the Foreign Office during the Governor's visit
and that every week that passes appears to
intensify his feelings on the subject. ~~He is~~

If a favourable answer could be extracted from the
in the near future
Americans/that would at least convince him that we
were progressing in the right direction. I think
it is quite clear that the refugees really are
extremely embarrassing to all concerned; and
may well become more so if we cannot find some means
of disposing of them soon. *My dear*

SECRET.

NO. 129

GIBRALTAR,

13 December, 1945.

RECEIVED
18 DEC 1945
C. O. REGY

Sir,

57 I have the honour to refer to correspondence ending with my Secret despatch No.79 of the 23rd of August on the subject of the Spanish refugees in Gibraltar and to inform you that I have recently had an opportunity of discussing this matter with His Majesty's Ambassador in Madrid, who paid an informal visit to Gibraltar at my invitation from the 7th to the 9th December.

2. It will be recalled that this matter was discussed at the Colonial Office during my visit to the United Kingdom last October and that an interview took place at the Foreign Office, at which Mr. Martin and Miss Fisher were present with me, with Mr. Hoyer-Millar and Mr. I. L. Henderson. At that interview it was explained by Mr. Henderson that the Foreign Office was awaiting from Madrid a list of those refugees who could in no circumstances return to Spain and that pending receipt of these particulars no official approach had been made to the Governments of Mexico and Venezuela who, it was thought, might be prepared to accept the refugees. The possibility of disposal to France was also mentioned.

3. I have now received a copy of a letter, dated the 9th November, addressed by Mr. C. Bramwell of the British Embassy, Madrid, to Mr. Henderson, in which it is stated that the Embassy have ascertained orally from the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs that a list of 50 Spaniards against whom it is probable that no proceedings would be taken were they to return to Spain has been communicated to the Spanish Consul-General in Gibraltar. The letter adds that the Ministry are unable to draw up a longer list until all the refugees concerned have made application

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

GEORGE HENRY HALL, P.C., M.P.,
etc., etc., etc.

2.

application to the Spanish Consul-General since, in order to draw up such a list, they need the details of each man's past, which in many cases are lacking. A copy of this letter is enclosed. Encl. 1.

4. As matters stand a deadlock appears to have been reached since the Foreign Office apparently take the view that they must have definite information as to the number of refugees who will or will not be received in Spain before they approach the Venezuelan or other Governments; this information cannot be furnished until the refugees themselves make application to the Spanish Consul-General in Gibraltar; and the only way in which the Spanish refugees in Gibraltar could be persuaded to make such application would be if they were told that unless they returned to Spain within a fixed period they would be evacuated to some other territory. I think it probable that many of these refugees, if faced with the alternatives of returning to Spain or being obliged to go to Venezuela, would choose the former, but unless I am in a position to put these alternatives clearly before them it is certain that they will take no step to leave Gibraltar. If a solution is to be reached it would seem therefore that the only course is for the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to request His Majesty's representatives in Venezuela and/or any other countries where it is thought these refugees might be welcomed with a view to obtaining assurances that they would be received. Sir Victor Mallet agreed that this was the only course likely to lead to effective action and has undertaken to address the Foreign Office with his recommendations. I have therefore sent him a copy of this despatch. The Ambassador, to whom I have explained the difficulties arising out of the continued presence here of the Spanish refugees, also agreed with me that the situation which their presence created was serious and likely to deteriorate.

5. The reasons which make it urgent that these Spanish refugees should be removed from Gibraltar have been fully discussed in previous correspondence but it may be convenient if I summarise them again, including certain fresh considerations which have aggravated the already serious nature of this problem:-

(1)

(1) the revolutionary and totalitarian doctrines which are favoured by the more extreme members of this community, even if they have not actively encouraged, have done nothing to diminish the communistic activities of a certain section of politically minded Gibraltarians. I have recently received evidence of communistic activity among this section in the form of a publication entitled "Estrella Roja" (Red Star) - a cyclostyled document containing articles attacking the system of Government in Gibraltar and supporting the activities of the Association for the Advancement of Civil Rights. I attach translations of relevant extracts from these articles which, though not of a highly inflammatory character, are undoubtedly features of an insidious campaign which is being conducted by the more extreme members of the Association with a view to obtaining political power by totalitarian methods and which has led to so much public restlessness and dissatisfaction;

Encl.2.

"

- (2) by the respectable majority the presence of these Spanish refugees in Gibraltar is greatly resented because of their occupation of accommodation which would otherwise be available for evacuated Gibraltarians who are unable to return owing to lack of housing. Their presence here also retards the process of relieving the gross overcrowding which has been the subject of protest not only by the local Medical authorities but by your Medical Adviser;
- (3) the presence of these refugees is a poison spot in local relations between Gibraltar and the neighbouring Spanish authorities. In my above mentioned Secret despatch I drew attention to the protests which had been made to me by the Spanish

Encl. 3.

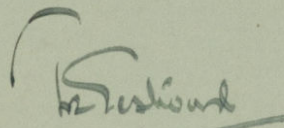
Spanish Consul-General in regard to certain demonstrations which took place in May and August this year. I there drew attention to the dependence of Gibraltar on Spain for certain essential services, supplies and amenities (this subject was developed in a memorandum, of which for facility of reference I attach a copy, forwarded to you with my third personal note of the 21st September, 1945). Some of the fears which I then felt regarding the continued presence here of the political refugees are already in process of realisation. I recently re-opened with General Buruaga, Military Governor of the Campo de Gibraltar, the question of the utilisation of the Spanish Neutral Ground for the purposes of recreation - a matter which was discussed at the Colonial Office during my last visit to the United Kingdom. General Buruaga assured me that he would personally be only too ready to facilitate an arrangement of this sort, but that as long as Gibraltar continued to harbour political refugees who were regarded in Spain as a focus of subversive activity it would be quite impossible for him to contemplate a step of this nature. Another more immediate and vital effect of the general attitude of the Spanish authorities towards Gibraltar has been the prohibition of facilities whereby Gibraltarians have hitherto been permitted to send motor lorries into the Provinces of Cadiz and Malaga for the collection of fresh vegetables from wholesalers in those districts; this prohibition has made it necessary to rely upon reduced and more expensive supplies brought by Spanish transporters to La Linea. I am hoping to obtain a restoration of the facilities formerly enjoyed but it is by no means certain that I shall be successful in so doing. Meanwhile the effect upon the health and the economy of the Colony may

5.

may well be serious.

6. I do not wish to labour this matter, which has formed the subject of so many communications to you since my first arrival in Gibraltar. I am well aware of the sympathetic attitude which you and your predecessor have displayed towards this difficult problem but I feel bound to represent in the strongest possible terms my hope that the Foreign Office may be moved to take some urgent action towards its solution.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
humble servant,



Lieutenant-General
and Governor.

Copy for Colonial Secretary
Gibraltar.

COPY.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
MADRID.

9th November, 1945.

Dear Henderson,

Please refer to my letter of 10th October about the proposed return to Spain of the Spanish refugees in Gibraltar.

2. We have now ascertained orally from Satorres at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that a list of 50 Spaniards against whom it is probable that no proceedings would be taken were they to return to Spain, has been communicated to the Spanish Consul-General in Gibraltar. They are unable to draw up a longer list until all the refugees concerned have made application to the Spanish Consul, the reason being that in order to draw up such a list they need the details of each man's past which have to be provided when application is made and which in many cases they are at present lacking.

3. The Ministry point out, however, that (a) no guarantee can be given of exemption from legal proceedings even to those on the list of 50 referred to above, unless they also put their application through the ordinary channels; (b) the normal procedure provides an effective guarantee in that if it is found after a refugee returns to Spain that there is something against him after all, he will be allowed to return to whence he came without any action being taken against him; (c) the arrangements made for dealing with applications have been perfected so that the delay between the application being made and a decision being reached is at the most three weeks.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Colonial Secretary at Gibraltar.

Yours ever,

(Sd).C.Bramwell.

TRANSLATION OF APPENDIX V.THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE TRADE UNION POSITION.

In these difficult or confused times, characteristic of the War which has just ended, it is the concern of our Party to examine carefully the local aspect with coolness and a spirit of criticism; outlining the positive factors of our work as well as the failings and dangers with the object of defining properly the direction in which our efforts must be aimed to correct the situation.

We wish to refer to the position of the local labour movement and the part that Communists must take in this situation. The circumstances through which the working classes in Gibraltar are passing call for the creation of a strong and united Trade Union that may start the struggle for our claims. Only through a strong labour organisation can the working classes present the Authorities with a scheme of social improvements such as, Workmen's Compensation: Old age pension: a decent living wage: better health services and free medical assistance: this as a minimum programme.

Now then, is there in Gibraltar a labour organisation capable of starting this struggle? The answer is very simple NO! There never existed in Gibraltar a strong and united Trade Union. There is a Trade Union of negative value whose leaders have cheated the workers one and a thousand times, divorcing themselves from the people to become the servants of Capitalism, interested naturally in preventing the working classes from uniting. Today, the sole mention of that Trade Union is sufficient to keep the workers away.

We know that the Organization of masses, A.A.C.R., has in its programme the creation of a Trade Union. What have been our reactions to this new situation? Have we attacked this problem firmly? The answer is once more NO! We have not given all our love and attention to a matter of such importance as it merits. We know how to put more life and activity into our undertakings. The position of the Party and the understanding of the Communists is a decisive element. None of us should stand by before the new situation with folded arms. Not at all: we shall be capable of solving the new situation as in all times we knew how to adapt ourselves to each new situation

situation because the party does not lose sight of the people. It knows that when necessary the workers of this city know how to unite and use their energies. In these difficult times, it is the concern of our party to be the first to see the need for a change. Therefore, if it is true that we wish to be worthy of the title "vanguardists" of the working class, it is necessary that we place all our love and activity in the establishing of the new Trade Union so that Gibraltar may march in tune with the workers of the World.

We wish to refer to the position of the local labour movement and the part that Communists must take in this situation. The circumstances under which the working class is living are becoming ever more difficult. The struggle for our class is becoming ever more bitter. Only through a strong labour organization can the working class present the authorities with a scheme of social improvement. We must have a strong organization, a strong living wage, better health services and free medical assistance. This is a minimum program.

Now then, is there in Gibraltar a labour organization capable of attaining this program? The answer is very simple. No! There never existed in Gibraltar a strong and united trade union. There is a Trade Union of negative value whose leaders have cheated the workers and sold out their class. They have turned their backs on the people to become the servants of the capitalist, interested naturally in the interests of the working class from within. Today, the same situation of that Trade Union is sufficient to keep the workers away.

We know that the organization of workers, A.G.U., has in its program the creation of a Trade Union. What have been our reactions to this new situation? Have we attacked this problem firmly? The answer is no. We have not given all our love and attention to a matter of such importance. We know how to put more life and activity into our organization. The position of the party and the answer to the question of the Communists is a decisive element. None of us should stand by before the new situation with folded arms. Not all of us shall be capable of solving the new situation in all times we know how to put ourselves to each new situation.

• • • •

• • • •

Let us too, Gibraltarian Comrades, show the whole world that we possess a high degree of culture and that we have the same capabilities as others to continue our struggle for the emancipation of humanity by fulfilling all the duties which we may be given by our leaders in order to avoid that the nations may once again become the victims of Nazism.

Do not forget, Comrades, that in Gibraltar we have many enemies who are hidden and protected by the capitalist system under which we unfortunately see ourselves today obliged to live and do not forget that if we do not beware they will make us feel all the weight of their anger. What we must therefore acquire is a sense of our duty and that is to end for ever this plague of locusts which will try by every means in their power to destroy our crops. Once this extermination is accomplished we shall have the satisfaction of knowing

knowing that our Party in Gibraltar has accomplished its mission, the mission of sowing the ideal of our Party so that the fruits of the crop may be harvested by our children; it is they who will be the generation of tomorrow and we will thus have a Gibraltar which will be more advanced and progressive, where men will be respected and where the predominating factors will be equality, justice and culture.

.....

.....

.....

Do not forget, Comrades, that in Gibraltar we have many comrades who are hindered and protected by the capitalist system under which we unfortunately live today. They will make us feel all the weight of their anger. That is why we must therefore act in a spirit of calmness and that is why we must for ever this plague of locusts which will try by every means in their power to destroy our work. Once this extermination is accomplished we shall have the satisfaction of knowing

COPY.

MEMORANDUM NO.1.

Dependence of Gibraltar upon Spain for certain essential Services, Supplies and Amenities.

Gibraltar is dependent upon Spain for certain essential services, supplies and amenities. Without these services it is not too much to say that the economic life of the Colony would be disrupted.

(1) Services. The last returns of employed personnel furnished by the Controller of Manpower show that of 17,858 civilians gainfully employed in the Colony 10,790 were Spaniards or other aliens and only 6,795 were British subjects, including persons normally resident in the United Kingdom. The majority of the aliens are Spaniards who enter Gibraltar daily. Over 2,000 of these are employed in the Dockyard and over 1,000 by the War Department. Over 300 are employed by the City Council, some of them on essential public services. All except 5 of the 109 bakers and assistant bakers are aliens. All the carpenters, engine drivers, tailors, shoe makers, lorry drivers, mechanics, photographers, plumbers and printers are non-Gibraltarian. Nearly all the domestic servants are Spaniards. There is hardly an occupation in the Colony in which Spaniards are not represented.

(2) Supplies. Gibraltar is dependent upon Spain for supplies of fresh fruit, vegetables and, with the exception of very small quantities caught by Gibraltarians, of fresh fish. If these commodities were not available from Spain they would have to be imported, in some cases at considerably increased cost.

(3) Amenities. Gibraltar with its highly congested and overcrowded conditions provides the public with very few facilities for games and recreation. Arrangements have recently been made with the General Commanding the Campo de Gibraltar for Gibraltarians to visit certain bathing beaches in Spain. The Spanish authorities have also recently agreed to an extension of the hours for the opening of the frontier, which enables Gibraltarians to visit friends in La Linea and return any hour up to 12.45 a.m.

2. The question of territorial waters is an old one. There has always been a friendly understanding whereunder no protest has been made against the anchoring of British vessels in Spanish waters. Without such anchoring the use of the roadstead would

be

2.

be severely restricted.

3. It is probably true that if Gibraltar derives advantages from Spain the neighbourhood of La Linea equally derives benefit from the employment provided in Gibraltar. But whereas it would not be impossible for the neighbouring Spaniards to seek employment in other parts of Spain, there is no other source from which Gibraltar could recruit its labour, since even if labour could be brought from overseas there is no accommodation on the Rock in which they could be housed. These considerations have always been regarded as making it desirable, if not essential, that good relations should be maintained between the Government of Gibraltar and the neighbouring Spanish authorities. It has been possible, even during the most critical days of the war, to maintain reasonably amicable relations. Demonstrations of the nature recently reported in the Governor's despatch No.49 of the 24th May and Secret despatch No.79 of the 23rd August are bound to have unfavourable reactions upon the Spanish authorities, and in making his protest against the demonstration held on the 16th August the Consul General said that the General commanding the Campo area had been considerably disturbed and might have to consider the withdrawal of facilities recently made available to residents of Gibraltar for easier access to the Campo, including the use of the bathing beaches.

Miss Fisher Colonial Office

73

DEC 1945

With the Compliments

FOREIGN OFFICE, S. W. 1.

Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

30th November, 1945.

No. WR 3392/16/48.

3 DEC 1945

Dear Mr Johnson

C. O. REG

We propose to ask for the help of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees in the following matter but, before doing so, feel that we ought to obtain your views since operational expenditure will be involved.

At various times since the beginning of the Spanish Civil War, Spanish Republican refugees have found refuge in Gibraltar and the number at present there is 487. The question of their future has now become urgent since many Gibraltarians evacuated in the earlier part of the war are now in the United Kingdom and the problem of their repatriation is an actual one. Conditions in Gibraltar are so congested that every inch of space will be required if these Gibraltarians are to return home and the Governor feels, therefore, that he has no option but to seek the removal of the Spanish refugees.

We have been considering what could be done to find alternative accommodation for these Spaniards and, after ascertaining that there was no possibility of sending them elsewhere in British colonial territory, we began to look for possible places of settlement abroad. There was some reason to think that the Venezuelan Government were ready to agree to the entry of suitable refugees and that, they might not refuse political refugees from Spain. We therefore consulted our Ambassador at Caracas, who agreed that it might

Mr. Richard A. Johnson,
United States Embassy,
1, Grosvenor Square,
W. 1.

be/

be worth while approaching the Venezuelan Government. Before doing so, we thought it best to obtain Emerson's opinion whether the fate of these refugees was likely to be a matter of concern to the Intergovernmental Committee and whether the Committee would wish to take a hand in, or even to be responsible for, their transfer from Gibraltar.

Emerson replied that, on the information available, it seemed that some at any rate of these refugees came within the Committee's mandate although the position was not clear in regard to all of them. He proposed that the position should be clarified by reference to the Spanish Government and that so far as these Spaniards could return to Spain under satisfactory assurances of their liberty and safety, they should have the opportunity of doing so before they were constrained to leave Gibraltar for distant countries. We thereupon asked our Madrid Embassy to take up the matter and now learn that the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs have sent to the Spanish Consul-General at Gibraltar a list of fifty Spaniards against whom it is probable that no proceedings would be taken were they to return to Spain. The Spanish authorities say that they cannot draw up a longer list until all refugees concerned have applied to the Spanish Consul-General because they need the outline of every man's past which is at present lacking in many instances. The Spanish authorities say further that (a) no guarantee can be given of exemption from legal proceedings even to those on this list of fifty unless they also apply through the ordinary channels, (b) the normal procedure provides an effective guarantee in that, if it is found after a refugee returns to Spain that there is something against him after all, he will be allowed to return whence he came without any action being taken against

him/

him and (c) the arrangements made for dealing with applications have been perfected so that the delay between the application being made and the decision being reached is, at the most, three weeks.

In our view, this puts the Governor of Gibraltar in a position where he can encourage these Spaniards to apply to the Spanish Consul-General in Gibraltar for permission to return to Spain and to add at his discretion that he cannot keep them in Gibraltar and that those who cannot or will not return to Spain will have to be sent elsewhere. In General Eastwood's view, if he takes this line, a large number of these exiles may choose to return to Spain. The question remains how we should deal with the residue.

As stated above, Emerson would not be indisposed to consider intervention on their behalf by the I.G.C. Moreover, you know our general view that the I.G.C. should not operate in favour of any refugees unless and until it has been clearly established that they are not repatriable: that condition, I think, can be regarded as satisfied in respect of the residual Spaniards at Gibraltar if the course described above is followed. Since the matter of finding accommodation at Gibraltar for returning Gibraltarian evacuees is very pressing, I should be grateful if you could let me know as soon as you can the views of your authorities on our proposal that the I.G.C. should be asked to intervene in favour of the non-repatriable residue when its composition has been ascertained. I assume that, as in the case of the Spanish exiles in Portugal, expenditure by the Committee would be limited to paying the cost of transportation from Gibraltar to the country of destination.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd) D. MacKillop.

(D. MacKillop)

miss Fisher. Colonial Office.

NOV 6 1945

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

SECRET 48908/21

72

With the Compliments
of the
Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

WR 3146/16/48.

[CYPHER]

DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1.

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO MADRID

No. 858.

D. 7.20 a.m. 14th November
1945.

13th November, 1945.

rrrrrr

70 Following from Henderson for Bramwell.
[Begins]. Your letter of 10th October.

Has Satorres replied to your letter of
the same date?

2. For your own information presence of
these Spanish Republican refugees in Gibraltar
continues to cause Governor considerable
embarrassment and he is pressing strongly for
our help. Gibraltarians complain that they
occupy accommodation which could otherwise be
used for returning evacuees, and for other
reasons.

3. Plans for the disposal of these
refugees are being held up by non-receipt of
the list promised by the Spanish Ministry of
Foreign Affairs. We should be glad therefore
if you would press the matter very strongly
with Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

O.T.P.

C.O.

DRAFT AND RECORD COPY

71.

LETTER
SENT

6. XI

REGISTERED No.

88905/21

Downing Street,

S.W. 1. DATE.

6th November, 1945.

Dear Mr. Henderson,

DRAFT

Miss Fisher 12/11.

MR. _____

MR. _____

ENCLOSURES

FURTHER ACTION

Thank you for sending us a copy of the Madrid letter on the Spanish refugees in Gibraltar.

What the "Colonial Office feels about the offer in the Ministry's pour-mémoire" is, always, pending a further expression of views from Gibraltar, quite simple. We should like to know the names of the 100 undesirables apparently familiar to Senor Muguiro since presumably these are the refugees whom it would be impossible to send back to Spain; and in the second place since we must presumably cope with these 100 in any circumstances we should like to push on arrangements for getting them to Venezuela, Mexico (or France) as the case might be. I observe that Senor Muguiro optimistically thinks that General Eastwood was able to arrange this while he was in England.

Apart

To

I.L. HENDERSON, ESQ.

15

APART FROM THESE
IMMEDIATE REACTIONS WE MUST OF
COURSE AWAIT AN EXPRESSION OF
OPINION FROM GIBRALTAR TO WHICH
I SEE COPIES OF ALL THE RELEVANT
DOCUMENTS HAVE BEEN SENT.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Mary Fisher.

Copy

(WR 3134/16/48)

S. E. V. Luke Esq.
Colonial Office
British Embassy,
Madrid.

70

10th October, 1945.

With the Compliments
of the
Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

Dear Henderson,

60. Please refer to your letter WR 2192/16/48 of
the 19th September to Bowker regarding the proposed
return of the Spanish refugees in Gibraltar.

Other than the pour-mémoire enclosed in our
despatch No.407 of the 24th July we have had no further
word from the Ministry on this subject and, Castillo
having left on transfer to Tangier, we are reverting
to the matter with the Ministry as in the attached
letter and will continue to do our best to get the
list out of them.

Meanwhile we should like to hear what your
Department and the Colonial Office feel about the
offer in the Ministry's pour-mémoire mentioned in the
preceding paragraph. I suppose some steps will have
been taken to bring its existence to the notice of
the refugees but everything depends of course on how
the guarantees in it would be implemented and if I
were a refugee myself I should have my doubts. The
offer will presumably fail altogether to impress the
hard core of professional agitators among the refugees
and we can take it that the Spanish Government themselves
are not so foolish as to think that it would. Short
of letting its existence be known the offer is also
I imagine one which the authorities at Gibraltar
might feel chary about sponsoring or appearing to
sponsor vis à vis the refugees. I enclose in this
connection a record by the Ambassador of a conversation
on the 6th October with Muguero, the Spanish Consul-
General at Gibraltar.

I am copying this letter to the Colonial Secretary
at Gibraltar.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) H.A.A. Hankey
for C. Bramwell.

I.L. Henderson, Esq.,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

10th October, 1945.

My dear Satorres,

On June 3rd last Senor del Castillo suggested to Bowker that the best solution of the problem presented by the continued presence in Gibraltar of a number of Spanish refugees whom it is desired, if possible, to evacuate from the Colony, would be for your Ministry to provide this Embassy with a list of those refugees who would have to undergo judicial proceedings if they came back to Spain so that arrangements could be made for at least the remainder to return.

The Embassy would be glad to know whether they may expect shortly to receive such a list. It will be recalled that a list of the names of the 473 Spanish refugees in Gibraltar was presented to the Ministry in the Embassy's note No. 759 of the 16th June, 1944.

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) C. Bramwell.

Sr. Don Roberto de Satorres y Vries,
Dirección General de Política Exterior.

Senor Ignacio de Muguero, the Spanish Consul General at Gibraltar called on me yesterday. I had met him at San Sebastian with his father-in-law, Senor Padilla, the former Ambassador in Washington.

Senor Muguero told me that the main anxiety of his present post was caused by the presence of about 500 Spanish refugees in Gibraltar who had been there since the Civil War. They could be divided into three categories of whom only one consisting of about 100 persons was really poisonous. These men were regular communist agitators and as long as they remained in Gibraltar they were apt to infect the 10,000 workmen who crossed the line every day to work in the Gibraltar dockyards. Moreover, these men had influenced the other 400 against availing themselves of the amnesty to return to Spain.

I remarked that I understood that some of the refugees who thought they could return under the amnesty had attempted to do so and been beaten up by the Police. Senor Muguero said that there had been one case of a man who was imprisoned on returning to Spain and that he had quickly persuaded the authorities to release this man. This he believed was the only case and other stories should be treated with suspicion because there were so many anti-Franco propagandists in Gibraltar busy spreading false stories in order to discourage refugees from returning. A good many of the refugees had got into their heads that if they now returned to Spain under Franco's régime they would have a bad time when, as they expected at an early date, a republican régime was again set up in Spain. They therefore preferred to wait for that day in Gibraltar.

Senor Muguero said that the only solution was one which was already being explored by the Governor of Gibraltar with H.M. Government, namely, to send the 100 bad men in a ship to South America. The lack of shipping has hitherto been the obstacle but he hoped that while General Eastwood was in England during this month he might get this fixed up.

He/

He spoke with great affection of General Eastwood and seemed most anxious to contribute towards friendly relations in view of the fact that he had for many years been Consul in Liverpool and retained the happiest memories of his time there.

V.A.L.Mallet.

6th October, 1945.

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

69

ORIG: ON 88905/45-

88888/45

Code

TO GIBRALTAR (Lt. Gen. Sir T.R. Eastwood)

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 31st October, 1945. 09.15 hrs.

No. 588 Secret Private and Personal.

Your personal and private telegram No. 569 Secret.

1. I regret to learn of deterioration in public morale which you report and await with interest your despatch concerning the City Council's resolution. I trust that the visit of the delegation from the A.A.C.R. regarding which I have received your telegram No. 571 may have a generally beneficial effect.

2. Your paragraph 5(3) and (4). I am addressing you by telegram on these two points separately. Telegram on basic wage rate was already in draft agreed by Service Departments and Treasury when your telegram 569 was received and although it does not go as far as your proposals you will note that it leaves the way open for future discussion provided City Council agrees to resume its place on Standing Wages Committee, which provides the proper machinery for discussion of these questions. It is quite possible (though they have not authorized this remark) that Service Departments and Treasury might accept 33½ percentage if agreement of all official employers were ensured but that they much dislike the notion of yielding to unilateral action by one employer only.

3. Your paragraph 5(2). 27 tons of equipment have been shipped on GRODNO. It is the air compressors themselves that have not yet gone. They weigh 3½ tons which precludes air transport. Crown Agents expect to be able to ship in near future and think no time would be gained by shipment on one of His Majesty's ships.

/4.

4. Your paragraph 6(1). You will remember views expressed by Ministry of Health representatives at meeting in Colonial Office on impossibility of moving evacuees to England this winter and on evacuees own preference for avoiding mass move until they can be repatriated. In these circumstances I am inclined to hold up any announcement until Tangier Fend-for-Yourself scheme can be launched. Details of this scheme are at present under discussion here. If however you consider immediate announcement should be made I would welcome suggestion as to how it should be framed.

5. In this connection I should like you to consider possibility of sending to Ministry of Health and local Government in Northern Ireland periodical official bulletin on rehousing progress and other matters of public interest in Gibraltar for distribution among evacuees. It seems probable that a monthly or even quarterly note of this sort, strictly limited to factual statement, would have extremely beneficial effect on morale and go far to counteract propagandist activities of Bruzon and his friends. I should welcome your views on this suggestion, which might be discussed with Luke.

6. Separate communications will be sent regarding other points mentioned in your telegram.

7. I am grateful for your reference to assistance we have been able to give you from Colonial Office. We shall do our best to ensure that nature of your special difficulties and problems is understood by all concerned here and that you are supported in your efforts towards their solution.

GEORGE H. BALL.

Orig: on 88905/45

68

INWARD TELEGRAM

Code

FROM GIBRALTAR (Lt. Gen. Sir T.R. Eastwood)

TO S. OF S. COLONIES.

D. 27th October, 1945.

R. 27th " " 19.55 hrs.

No. 569 Secret.

Personal and Private.

1. I feel it desirable to report to you the following further symptoms of deterioration of public morale due to delays in, and medical restrictions upon, repatriation of Gibraltarians and calculated exacerbation of feeling by recent provocative utterances of members of the Association for the Advancement of Civil Rights:-

(1) City Council have passed resolution "to be brought to the notice of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom".

- (a) Expressing grave concern at the postponement of the return of Gibraltarians compulsorily evacuated for military reasons, while at the same time arrangements are proceeding to bring to Gibraltar families of service personnel and of statutory aliens
- (b) Expressing opinion that until the Government can provide requisite housing and medical facilities, the military authorities should loan military married quarters and provide facilities at military hospitals for the civilian population
- (c) Requesting revocation of appointment of City Council Representative on Re-settlement Board.

/(2)

(2) Representative on the Re-settlement Board of the Association of Civil Rights has tendered his resignation in protest against the repatriation restrictions.

(3) Albert Isola, Unofficial Member of the Executive Council, has tendered his resignation from the Council on the grounds that as he is target of public abuse, the interests of the Colony would best be served by the appointment to the Council of person more acceptable to the people.

2. I will comment by despatch on the resolution under (1) above as early as possible (I cannot support any suggestion for postponement of the return of military families). With regard to (3) above, it will be difficult to find suitable person who is prepared to incur odium which now attaches to membership of the Executive Council. It is not impossible that other unofficial members may be moved to follow Isola's example, though I hope to prevent this.

3. As you are aware, (my telegram No. 466 and subsequent correspondence), the repatriation restrictions were decided upon medical advice, that further return of evacuees would be dangerous to public health until

- (a) nursing staff had been provided to enable additional hospital accommodation to be opened, and
- (b) we had received sanitary equipment necessary to enable substantial number of temporary houses to be completed.

4. Nursing position was discussed by us, and I have since received your telegram No. 564 of 20th October proposing the engagement of 2 Eire Sisters and mentioning the possibility of obtaining a third. I am grateful for this action, but minimum number of Sisters required to enable King George V Hospital to be opened is now 4 owing to the resignation of one of the Sisters serving here. With regard to sanitary equipment, we are still

/awaiting

awaiting air compressors which I have just been informed by your telegram No. 570 could not be shipped in the vessel which has just sailed. Public is, so far, unaware of this latest impediment to the progress of the temporary building programme, but when the news of the delay becomes known, as it must shortly, it will not improve an already sufficiently serious situation. With regard to the inability to provide nurses, people are unable to understand how failure to meet such a modest requirement can be reconciled with the concern by the S. of S. and this Government for early repatriation and I have no satisfactory explanation to give.

5. There are four steps which, if taken immediately, might retrieve the rapidly deteriorating situation:-

- (1) Immediate recruitment of additional Sisters up to the four required.
- (2) Despatch of air compressors by the first possible opportunity. If no merchant vessel is leaving in the very early future, I suggest the possibility of shipment by one of His Majesty's ships or by aircraft. Weight and size of the apparatus should permit the latter course.
- (3) Authority to make announcement regarding constitutional development recommended in my telegram No. 563 of 25th October.
- (4) Approval of the wage recommendations contained in my telegram No. 525 of 12th October.

6. Other matters scarcely less urgent and equally important are:-

- (i) Announcement of decision regarding the remaining Gibraltarians in Northern Ireland. Public opinion here feels strongly that arrangements should be made to move these people to England.

(ii) Steps to effect removal of Spanish refugees, whose presence here is a running sore in the body politic (memorandum No. 2 enclosed with my third person note of 21st September, 1945).

(62)

(iii) Early decision regarding the admission of Spaniards to Trade Unions (my despatch No. 92 of 15th September). Delay in passing Trade Unions legislation and setting up machinery for discussion of wages question has been largely responsible for the present political difficulties.

7. It is with great reluctance that I intrude upon your personal attention matters which, in comparison with the grave problems with which you are faced in other parts of the Colonial Empire, may well appear to be of secondary concern, but I feel it my duty to point out the very serious declension of public confidence and goodwill towards this Government and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of the people of Gibraltar. People are of law abiding disposition but their patience has been sorely tried by a long delay in announcement regarding the future of those Gibraltarians who cannot return until permanent buildings are completed and additional restriction now imposed for medical reasons has raised temperature of public feeling, heated as it has been by irresponsible and provocative statements, unpleasantly close to flashpoint. Serious, and I fear lasting, prejudice to good relations between the Government and the people must accrue from continued delay in settlement of the matters I have indicated. I am most appreciative of the sympathy and assistance which I have received from you and your staff in all matters, but I am compelled to the conclusion that the energy and interest directed to our affairs in the Colonial Office have not been shared by some other Departments concerned in the problems of Gibraltar.

88905/21/45

67

67

With the Compliments of Mr. I.L. Henderson.

Foreign Office,
Refugee Department

24th October, 1945.

No. 407 (114/40/45)

HIS Majesty's **Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid**
presents his compliments to **Acting Foreign Secretary**
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British... **Embassy,.....**
Madrid.
.....
.....

24th July, ..., 1945.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Mr. Bramwell's letter of 17th July to Mr. Maxon.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Translation of Note Verbale No. 591 of 14th July, 1945, from Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to H.M. Embassy.	Repatriation of Spanish political exiles.
Copy also sent to Gibraltar under P.L.No.3.	

Translation.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

R4- Gi 1

Num. 591.

AIDE MEMOIRE

The recent decisions regarding the repatriation of Spanish political exiles also applies naturally to those who are in Gibraltar and to those referred to in the Note Verbale from H.B.M. Embassy, No. 759, of June 16th, 1944.

These decisions extend to the exiles the benefits of recent amnesties by which all those Spaniards, who for various reasons and at one time or another left national territory, can return freely to Spain and with absolute guarantees as regards their situation. Only the perpetrators of assassinations and their accomplices are excluded, unless they wish to submit to the regular Tribunals. Moreover, if after any exile has been authorised to return to Spain it should transpire that a serious charge lies against him, he will be allowed to return to his place of origin abroad should he so wish.

In view of the above, all those belonging to the group in question and desiring to return to Spain should apply for permission in the form prescribed for such cases to the Spanish Consul-General in Gibraltar, who will deal urgently with these requests which in turn will be settled in the shortest possible time.

Madrid, 14th July, 1945.

C.O.

DRAFT AND RECORD COPY

65A

LETTER
SENT

17.10.

REGISTERED No.

88905/21/45.

Downing Street,

S.W.1.
DATE.

17th October, 1945.

DRAFT

MR. Miss Fisher /10

MR. *PS. 17.*

MR. _____

ENCLOSURES

FURTHER ACTION

Dear Mr. Hoyar Millar,

I am enclosing a note of the discussion with the Governor of Gibraltar held in your room on the 16th of October. I hope that you will find that it represents correctly what was said.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Mary Fisher.

F.R. HOYAR MILLAR, ESQ.

To

NOTE OF DISCUSSION.

General Eastwood accompanied by Mr. Martin and Miss Fisher went to the Foreign Office on the 16th of October to discuss with Mr. Hoyer Millar the two subjects of Spanish refugees in Gibraltar and the possible lease of neutral ground between Gibraltar and Spain for recreational purposes. Mr. Henderson was present for the first part of the discussion.

x 69. Refugees
B.H.

1. The Governor pointed out that the presence of the refugees was a constant source of embarrassment, partly because they acted as a channel of communication between Spanish Republicans in Mexico (and elsewhere) and Spain, and incidentally tended to arouse Republican feelings among the Gibraltarians, but mainly because their presence was much resented by the Gibraltarians on the grounds that they occupied accommodation which could otherwise be used for returning evacuees. It was agreed that in negotiations on this subject emphasis should be laid entirely on the second of these reasons.

Mr. Henderson restated the present position: i.e. that the Foreign Office was awaiting from Madrid a list of those who could in no circumstances return to Spain and that, although it was possible that Mexico and Venezuela would be ready to take these refugees, no official approach had yet been made to their respective Governments. He stressed the fact that one of the main difficulties at present was the lack of Trans-Atlantic transport and that the situation here was not likely to improve for seven or eight months. The Foreign Office was, however, alive to the desirability of disposing of these refugees no less than those in Portugal for which it was trying to make arrangements.

It was suggested that France might possibly provide a solution for some of the refugees and that as soon as those in the Channel Islands had been successfully sent back to France this question might be raised with the French Government.

It was agreed that the Governor should be put in a position as soon as possible to offer the refugees an alternative: either go back to Spain (and he thought 50 per cent would probably do so) or go to Mexico and Venezuela and/or France under ~~these~~ arrangements.

2. It was agreed that the Governor should approach H.M. Ambassador in Madrid direct with regard to the question of obtaining by lease or loan or any other means the use of neutral ground between Gibraltar and Spain for recreational purposes. The Foreign Office had no objection whatever in principle to this arrangement.

C.O.

DRAFT AND RECORD COPY

65

LETTER
SENT

REGISTERED No.

DATE.

DRAFT

88905/21.

MR. Miss Fisher 13.12.11

11th October, 1945.

MR. _____

Sir,

MR. _____

I am directed by
Mr. Secretary Hall to refer to
Foreign Office communication
No. Z.11054/18/41 of the
6th October, enclosing a copy
of a letter from the Chancery
British Embassy, Paris, concerning
the wish of a Spaniard named
Miguel Martin to go to Gibraltar
with his wife and five children.

2. I am to state that, in view
of the present congestion in
Gibraltar and the Governor's
anxiety to find other accommodation
for the Spanish refugees already in
the Colony, it would certainly be
impossible to permit Mr. Martin to
take up residence there until such
time as he could return to Spain.

ENCLOSURES

Ans 64

FURTHER ACTION

*Please circulate
to me as soon
as possible
12/10*

To

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant

Sgd) E.V. Luke

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

(11/44) 3693 Wt. 43090/394 50m. 12/44 C.N.Ld. 748

pp Mary Fisher

In any further communication on this subject, please quote
No. Z 11054/18/41
and address—not to any person by name, but to—
The Under-Secretary of State, Foreign Office, London, S.W. 1.

For the attention of
P. S. V. L. R. B. G.

64

THE Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his
compliments to *The Under Secretary of State.*

Colonial Office and, by direction of the Secretary of State,
transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper for such
observations as *Col. The Right Hon. Oliver Stanley, M.C.M.P.*
may desire to offer.

Foreign Office,

6th Oct, 1945.

Reference to previous correspondence.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
<i>Planceny Paio A</i> <i>Western Dept.</i> <i>25th Sept. 1945</i>	<i>Desire of Miguel Martin A</i> <i>to A Gibraltar.</i>
<i>And 6th</i>	

Similar letter sent to

COPY

(Z 11054/18/41)

BRITISH EMBASSY,
PARIS.

90/22/45.

25th September, 1945.

Dear Department,

We have been approached by a Spaniard named Miguel Martin or Martin Miguel, born 12th August 1885 at Marsella, Malaga, and married with five children who wishes to go to Gibraltar and stay there with his relations until conditions allow of him returning to Spain. He claims that both Madame Amosès and Monsieur Joseph Senilla, who owns a tobacco shop, would be willing to sponsor him.

Could you please inform us what chance there is of this Republican refugee being allowed to go to Gibraltar, If so, what steps should he take?

Yours ever,

Chancery.

Western Department,
Foreign Office

1
COPY

(WR. 2533/14/48)

S. E. V. Luke Esq.,
Colonial Office.

9.13.116 N/T
R.203
63
With the Compliments
of the

Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

15 SEP 1945
Dear Sir Herbert,

14 SEP 1945

3116 N/T
I am sorry not to have been able to reply earlier to your letter IC/281/62 of 21st June with which you enclosed a memorandum about the immigration of Spanish refugees from Portugal for permanent settlement.

We are prepared to agree to the proposals outlined in your letter which we note have already been approved by the United States Government.

We suggest, however, that transport could be arranged at a cheaper cost than that indicated in paragraph 5 of your memorandum of the 18th June. The normal method of travel would be via New York in the ships of the Portuguese Line which runs to New York from Lisbon at irregular intervals. Fares, varying with the nature and comfort of the accommodation provided, are controlled by the War Shipping Administration of the U.S.A. and it is, therefore, advisable to ascertain beforehand the actual amount of the fare which may in a particular case such as this be the result of bargaining. As a guide to what the fare might be, third class fare from the United Kingdom to New York is about £30.

Finally we must stipulate that no further expenses should be incurred after the arrival of these refugees at their destinations in Mexico and Venezuela.

(signed) I.L. Henderson.

P.S. I have now received your letter IC/401/120 of the 21st August and will be replying as soon as possible about your memorandum of 27th April, 1945.

(Sgd.) I.L. Henderson.

Sir Herbert Emerson,

RE

N.S. 116
18 SEP 1945

C.

62

SECRET

RECEIVED

27 SEP 1945

C. O. REG

The Governor of Gibraltar presents his compliments to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and with reference to his Secret despatch No.94 of the 19th September 1945 has the honour to transmit notes of further matters regarding which discussion at the Colonial Office would be welcome during his forthcoming visit to the United Kingdom.

88911/45

N.B. Notes dealing with
1. British Council work in Gib. &
2. Introduction of Re-diffusion.
are registered on 95333/8/45 & 96834/19/1/45
respectively -

A. Lysons
01/10/45

Gibraltar,
21st September, 1945.

SECRET

Dependence of Gibraltar upon Spain for certain essential Services, Supplies and Amenities.

Gibraltar is dependent upon Spain for certain essential services, supplies and amenities. Without these services it is not too much to say that the economic life of the Colony would be disrupted.

(1) Services. The last returns of employed personnel furnished by the Controller of Manpower show that of 17,858 civilians gainfully employed in the Colony 10,790 were Spaniards or other aliens and only 6,795 were British subjects, including persons normally resident in the United Kingdom. The majority of the aliens are Spaniards who enter Gibraltar daily. Over 2,000 of these are employed in the Dockyard and over 1,000 by the War Department. Over 300 are employed by the City Council, some of them on essential public services. All except 5 of the 109 bakers and assistant bakers are aliens. All the carpenters, engine drivers, tailors, shoe makers, lorry drivers, mechanics, photographers, plumbers and printers are non-Gibraltarian. Nearly all the domestic servants are Spaniards. There is hardly an occupation in the Colony in which Spaniards are not represented.

(2) Supplies. Gibraltar is dependent upon Spain for supplies of fresh fruit, vegetables and, with the exception of very small quantities caught by Gibraltarians, of fresh fish. If these commodities were not available from Spain they would have to be imported, in some cases at considerably increased cost.

(3) Amenities. Gibraltar with its highly congested and overcrowded conditions provides the public with very few facilities for games and recreation. Arrangements have recently been made with the General Commanding the Campo de Gibraltar for Gibraltarians to visit certain bathing beaches in Spain. The Spanish authorities have also recently agreed to an extension of the hours for the opening of the frontier, which enables Gibraltarians to visit friends in La Linea and return any hour up to 12.45 a.m.

2. The question of territorial waters is an old one. There has always been a friendly understanding whereunder no protest has been made against the anchoring of British vessels in Spanish waters. Without such anchoring the use of the roadstead would be severely restricted.

3. It is probably true that if Gibraltar derives advantages from Spain the neighbourhood of La Linea equally derives benefit from the employment provided in Gibraltar. But whereas it would not be impossible for the neighbouring Spaniards to seek employment in other parts of Spain, there is no other source from which Gibraltar could recruit its labour, since even if labour could be brought from overseas there is no accommodation on the Rock in which they could be housed. These considerations have always been regarded as making it desirable, if not essential, that good relations should be maintained between the Government of Gibraltar and the neighbouring Spanish authorities. It has been possible, even during the most critical days of the war, to maintain reasonably amicable relations. Demonstrations of the nature recently reported in the Governor's despatch No. 49 of the 24th May and Secret despatch No. 79 of the 23rd August are bound to have unfavourable reactions upon the Spanish authorities, and in making his protest against the demonstration held on the 16th August the Consul General said that the

General.....

General commanding the Campo area had been considerably disturbed and might have to consider the withdrawal of facilities recently made available to residents of Gibraltar for easier access to the Campo, including the use of the bathing beaches.

SECRET

Spanish Political Refugees.

The possibility of the removal of the Spanish political refugees from Gibraltar has been the subject of correspondence with the Secretary of State for over a year.

2. In his Secret despatch No.53 of the 21st August 1944 the Governor pointed out that there were still in Gibraltar some 470 refugees who had sought asylum during the Civil War in Spain. The Governor said that their presence here and their undisguised antipathy to the existing regime in Spain were very unwelcome to our neighbours who regarded them with the deepest suspicion. The Governor pointed out that there had been charges from the Spanish authorities against the Government of Gibraltar of harbouring undesirables, and added that apart from being a source of embarrassment to local international relations the refugees were occupying accommodation which was most urgently required for evacuated Gibraltarians. It was urged that they should be removed by agreement to one of the Latin American States.

3. In January last the matter was again taken up with the Secretary of State in relation to the proposed visit of Sir Findlater Stewart. The Governor's telegram No. 7 Secret of the 4th January 1945 contained the following passage -

"Apart from the undesirability in regard to Spanish relations of continued presence here of these refugees their occupation of accommodation which could otherwise be made available for expatriated Gibraltarians is a source of increasing irritation and grievance to the local population. Their early removal would be regarded as an earnest of the desire of His Majesty's Government to assist speedy solution of our resettlement problem and from that aspect would have value out of all proportion to the size of the party which might be removed".

4. Under cover of Secret Saving telegram No.180 of the 17th March a list of the Spanish Political refugees then in Gibraltar, with a note of the whereabouts of their families, was transmitted to the Secretary of State. Further details were sent with the Governor's Secret Saving telegram No.190 of the 18th April.

(Colonial Of- 5. Last June there was demi-official correspondence
fice letter on this subject between Mr.S.E.V.Luke and Mr.R.C.S.Stanley.
88960/45 of It was explained by Mr.Luke that the Foreign Office had
6 June 45. taken up the matter with the Embassy in Madrid with a view to
Gibraltar obtaining facilities for the return of these refugees to
letter Spain. In reply it was pointed out that instructions relating
S.013/86 to this matter had already been received by the Spanish Consul
of 18th General here but that in view of the fact that one of the
June 45). refugees, who had returned to Spain on the undertaking given by
the Spanish authorities that he would not be punished, was
reported to have been beaten and threatened, it was thought
unlikely that there would be much response to the proposals
of the Spanish authorities.

6. During his visit to the United Kingdom last July Mr.Stanley called with Mr.Luke at the Foreign Office and saw Mr.P.Mason. It was stated by Mr.Mason that information was awaited from Madrid and that it was proposed to approach the Venezuelan Government with a view to ascertaining whether, should the refugees be unwilling to return to Spain, they could be accepted in Venezuela.

7. The urgency of taking action to remove these refugees was again stressed in paragraph 5 of the Governor's Secret despatch No. 79 of the 23rd August.

8. The presence of the Spanish refugees in Gibraltar has been a continuous irritant to the people and the cause of much embarrassment to the administration. Not only do they make difficulties in regard to relations with the neighbouring Spanish authorities, which for reasons set out in Memorandum No. 1 should not be allowed to deteriorate, but their presence is bitterly resented by the Gibraltarians because it hinders the relief of overcrowding and the return of evacuees still remaining overseas. It is also suggested, though no concrete evidence of this has been furnished, that Spanish refugees have been partly responsible for the aggressive and irresponsible policy now being pursued by the Association for the Advancement of Civil Rights.

9. A note by Major J. Patron, O.B.E. is attached.

SPANISH INFLUENCE

The fact that Gibraltar was isolated during the war, that due to the Evacuation there have been an extremely high percentage of marriages with Spaniards, combined with natural resentment against separation of families and necessary war time restrictions and accentuated by the large number of politically minded refugees in our midst, has made Gibraltar very much more Spanish. For example, the "Calpense" does not comment on any of the plans for local reconstruction but devotes most of its space to the activities of the Provisional Spanish Government formed in Mexico and the shortcomings of the Spanish Monarchy. This influence is not a healthy one. The advanced elements who form a proportion of the Refugees do not believe in constitutional progress nor do they understand British methods. They have, due to their political activity, influenced the views of the working and middle classes here and are involved in every form of racket and black market activity. There is one man who is reputed to have made £80,000 during the years he has been a Refugee in Gibraltar, by such activities. This not only points to the need of removing the refugees and taking steps to have properly constituted representation of Labour acting through Trade Unions organized on British lines, but would appear to call for active steps to counteract this influence.

67
88905/21/45.

29 September, 1945.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Hall to refer to your communication WR.2192/16/48 of the 19th of September, and connected correspondence and to transmit to you, to be laid before Mr. Secretary Bevin, copies of communications from the Governor of Gibraltar regarding protests received from the Spanish Consul against demonstrations by Spanish refugees in Gibraltar on the 16th of August.

2. Mr. Hall hopes that it will be possible to obtain a decision regarding the disposal of these Spanish refugees at an early date and in this connection I am to say that the Governor of Gibraltar, Lieutenant General Sir Ralph Eastwood, who arrives in

this

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

this country on the 28th September
for a short visit, will probably
wish to discuss the matter with
representatives of the Foreign
Office.

I am,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

S. E. V. LUKE

88905/21/45

C. O.

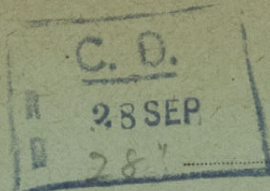
Mr. Pilbeam 27/9/45

Miss Fisher

Mr. Miss Ragnier 28/9

Mr. f.s.

Mr.



Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

DRAFT. LETTER

THE UNDER SECRETARY
OF STATE,

FOREIGN OFFICE.

(60)

Copies of 57, 58 and 59

FURTHER ACTION.

Re-circulate, to
old for discussion
with the Gov.

29 September, 1945

Sir,

I am etc. to refer to your communication WR 2192/16/48 of the 19th of September, and connected correspondence and to transmit to you, to be ^{loin} put before Mr. Secretary Bevin, copies of communications from the Governor of Gibraltar regarding protests received from the Spanish Consul against demonstrations by Spanish refugees in Gibraltar on the 16th of August.

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of Gibraltar, Lt. Gen. Sir Ralph Eastwood, who
~~will be~~ arrives
~~is expected to arrive~~ in this country on the
28th Sept. for a short visit,
~~and~~ will probably wish to discuss
the matter with representatives of the
Foreign Office.

I am,

etc.

S. E. V. LUKE

S. E. V. LUKE

S. E. V. Luke Esq.,
Colonial Office.

19 SEP 1945

60

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

Ref. F.O. Letter No. WR 2192/16/48
dated 11th August 1945.
(WR 2192/16/48).

19th September, 1945.

88405 / 2

With the Compliments
of the
Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

Dear Bowker,

Will you please refer to Mr. Bramwell's
letter of 17th July to Paul Mason regarding the
proposed return of the Spanish refugees in
Gibraltar.

Has it yet been possible to obtain
from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the list
of the refugees who would have to undergo
proceedings if they returned to Spain?

We are anxious to have this as soon
as possible and should be grateful if you could
remind Señor del Castillo.

Yours sincerely

(Sgd) Ian. L. Henderson

(I. L. Henderson).

R. J. Bowker, Esq.,
Madrid.

20 SEP 1945

C. O.

INWARD TELEGRAM

Code

COPY FOR REGISTRATION

2c
FROM GIBRALTAR (Lt. Gen. Sir T.R. Eastwood)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 8th September, 1945.

R. 8th " " 14.15 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

No. 455

Local correspondent of Reuter has been instructed to telegraph reply to question whether any arrangements have been made for the removal of Spanish refugees and, if so, where they are to go. I have replied that the Government is unable to make any statement on this subject.

SECRET.



88905/21/45 58

57

The Governor of Gibraltar
presents his compliments to the Secretary
of State for the Colonies and with reference
to his Secret despatch No. 79 of the 23rd
August, 1945 has the honour to enclose
herewith copies of further correspondence
with the Spanish Consul-General in Gibraltar
on the subject of the demonstration organised
in Gibraltar on the 16th August.

Gibraltar,

27th August, 1945.

COPY.

CONSULADE GENERAL DE ESPAÑA.

No. 58. Gibraltar, 22nd August, 1945.

Dear Sir,

I have to hand your letter of the 20th instant in reply to mine addressed to His Excellency the Governor on the 17th instant.

Today I have sent your reply to my Government. Although I see you admit no responsibility in the demonstration, offensive to the Head of the Spanish State, I wish to insist that the said demonstration ought not to have been carried out and in the case of their trying to effect it, same could have been avoided. Every demonstration with a political character, and even more, when they are directed against the Head of the State of a friendly Country, in all parts of the world, and I believe England follows the same rule, it is necessary to obtain a permit from the local authorities, in order to display banners and placards, containing insults to the Head of the Spanish State. In this case, it must have been one way or the other, i.e. that the local authorities did allow the demonstration or the demonstrators went out without the necessary permit, and therefore same must have been dissolved or the responsible people punished.

I submit the above in the legal point of view and also in the diplomatic way, one must always endeavour to avoid a clash. For example, in Algeciras not so long ago, a British officer suffered an accident while driving his car and the conditions in which this officer was, demanded a responsibility according to the Spanish laws, and the Judge was to take up the matter, but H.E. the Governor of Algeciras, General Buruaga, to avoid complications and a scandal, he asked the Judge to withdraw the case, and the victims of the accident and the damaged car was returned to Gibraltar. This was simply done to avoid inconveniences to the Gibraltar Authorities.

I really regret to insist so much on these points but I realise that since some time now, the propaganda of the refugees has increased considerably and in the local press also, especially the "El Calpense", that maintains with its ridiculous attitude, the discontent of the Authorities in the neighbourhood. You know very well that Spain has, in what it refers to labour, the export of foodstuffs and other minor facilities, always been exceedingly agreeable. You will understand that the relations which we now maintain would rapidly cripple if certain anti-British elements in Spain should go out crying, wither with the permit of the Government or the latter's apparent ignorance, "death to the King of England and its Government". I am sure that if this should happen, the protest of the British Government would be formidable and of course justified and would undoubtedly insist for apologies for the insults to the Head of the British Empire. It is to be borne in mind that General Franco is the Head of the Spanish State and that whatever insult is directed to him goes direct to the whole of the Spanish nation.

With this communication, I put an end to my protest and hope that I have reasons to protest but the whole matter now rests with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs at Madrid so that they may endeavour to expel from the Garrison all the Spanish red refugees who do not wish to return to Spain. Today, the door is open, the conditions for their return cannot be more favourable

and

The Honourable Colonial Secretary,
Gibraltar

and if they insist in not going back to their homes, it is because they may feel liable to grave delicts. I must insist that it is a great danger to allow them to continue in Gibraltar as it will only lead to endanger the good relations now existing.

I remain,
Yours faithfully,

EL CONSUL GENERAL,

(Sd.) I. de MUGUIRO.

COPY. Colonial Secretariat,

Gibraltar,

27th August, 1945.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 58 of the 22nd August on the subject of the demonstration organised in Gibraltar on the 16th August and to inform you that your letter has been placed before His Excellency. I am to say that His Excellency has taken note of your observations in this matter; that the difficulties created by the presence in Gibraltar of Spanish refugees are fully appreciated by this Government and that all possible steps are being taken to reach a satisfactory solution of the problem.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Sd.) R.C.S. STANLEY,

Colonial Secretary.

The Consul General for Spain at Gibraltar.

With this communication, I put an end to my protest and hope that I have succeeded in protesting that the whole matter now rests with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs at Madrid so that they may endeavour to expel from the territory all the Spanish refugees who do not wish to return to Spain. Today, the door is open, the conditions for their return cannot be more favourable.

The Honorable Colonial Secretary,
Gibraltar

88905/21/45

S.O. 13 B.

RECEIVED
30 AUG 1945
C.O. REGY.

SECRET.

GIBRALTAR,

23 August, 1945.

NO. 79.

Sir,

48
96001/F/45
RR.
96001/F/45
With reference to my Secret Saving telegram No.190 of the 15th April and previous correspondence on the subject of the Spanish refugees in Gibraltar, I have the honour to inform you that on the 16th August a procession of about 600 persons, composed mostly of Spaniards but including a number of Gibraltarians and organized by a Gibraltarian of suspected Communist sympathies, marched from Casemates up Main Street to the Convent. As on the similar occasion, reported in the sixth paragraph of my despatch No.49 of the 24th May containing an account of public celebrations in Gibraltar on the cessation of hostilities in Europe, members of the procession carried banners on which messages expressing admiration of the Allied Nations were accompanied by inscriptions such as "Down with Franco" and "Down with Fascism". On passing the Convent the demonstrators shouted "Long live England, long live Russia, America and the Allies, down with Franco and Fascism". At John Mackintosh Square these remarks were repeated. The crowd then dispersed quietly and flags and banners were rolled up. The procession was accompanied throughout by members of the Police and complete order was observed.

2. On the 17th August I received from the Spanish Consul-General a letter conveying a strong protest against the demonstration above described. The letter, a copy of which I attach, alleges that this Government authorised and co-operated in an "insult to a neighbour Government", refers to many representations made by the Consul-General regarding the desirability of removing Spanish refugees from Gibraltar, and asks me to bring to the notice of my Government the necessity of

17.8.45.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
GEORGE HENRY HALL, P.C., M.P.,
etc., etc., etc.

2.

of apologising to the Spanish Government which has been "insulted in the course of two Victory Day celebrations by a group of unreliable Spaniards."

3. The demonstration was carried out in an orderly manner and I am advised that no breach of the law was committed and that no incident occurred which would have justified interference by the Police. I have therefore caused a reply to be sent to the Consul-General, to the effect that I am unable to accept his allegations and that I do not feel that circumstances warrant any necessity for an apology in respect of what occurred. I attach a copy of the reply. I have also seen the Consul-General who was in an amiable mood and assured me that his only desire was that nothing should occur which should mar the good relations which exist between the Colony and the Administration of the Campo de Gibraltar. The Consul-General hinted, however, that continuance of demonstrations of this sort would be bound to have unfavourable reactions upon the Spanish authorities and might well result in the withdrawal of the facilities recently made available to residents in Gibraltar for greater facility of access to the Campo including the use of bathing beaches. The Consul-General added that if necessary the General administering the Campo would feel obliged to consider the desirability of allowing Spanish labour to enter Gibraltar less freely than was at present permitted. 20.8.45.

4. I have no doubt that the Consul-General was anxious to find the arguments most likely to persuade me to take action with a view to removing the Spanish refugees but if further demonstrations of this nature were in fact to occur a severe strain would be put upon my relations with the local Spanish Authorities and the withdrawal of facilities which might follow would have a serious effect upon the economic life and indeed the health of the Colony. I would refer in this connection to the analysis which accompanied Mr. R.C.S. Stanley's Confidential letter No. C.0763/5 of the 5th March to Mr. S.E.V. Luke. That analysis included a comparative table showing the employment of Gibraltarians and aliens in certain trades and professions from 2.v.

3.

from which it will be seen how largely the Colony is dependent in almost all its activities upon the employment of Spanish labour. I do not think it likely that any drastic step would be taken to restrict the entry into Gibraltar of this labour, which is dependent for its livelihood upon the employment provided in Gibraltar, but I am bound to point out that any serious interference with the labour supply would result in the paralysis of many of the Colony's activities including the operation of the Dockyard which is almost entirely dependent for its unskilled labour upon Spanish sources. Apart from the question of labour, Gibraltar is dependent upon Spain for many essential supplies including fresh fruit, fish and vegetables.

5. The importance from the Gibraltarian point of view of removing these refugees at the earliest possible moment has been frequently referred to in previous correspondence and as I have already stated their occupation of premises which, were they removed, could be made available to relieve overcrowding or to enable Gibraltarian property owners to return to their own homes, constitutes a cause of deep resentment among the local population. The possibility of a dislocation of the Colony's economy resulting from Spanish reactions to local demonstrations adds another most potent argument to the many which already exist for removing these persons without delay.

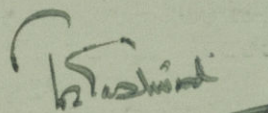
6. I have been informed by the Colonial Secretary who discussed this matter at the Foreign Office during his recent visit to the United Kingdom, that it is hoped to be able to arrange with the Government of Venezuela to receive these refugees in the event that they refuse to return to Spain. I trust that everything possible will be done to expedite this matter.

7.

4.

7. I am sending a copy of this despatch to His Majesty's
Ambassador in Madrid.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
humble servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Richard", written over a horizontal line.

Lieutenant-General
and Governor.

COPY.

Spanish Consulate-General
Gibraltar.

Gibraltar, 17th August, 1945.

No.N/V.

Excellency:

It is with great regret that I address Your Excellency, to make a strong protest against the public demonstration, which was organised yesterday against my Government, without any desire on the part of the Police to avoid it.

Your Excellency will understand that it is not tolerable, for a Government, who is in normal relations with another, to authorise and even co-operate in an insult to a neighbour Government. The demonstration lasted yesterday over 20 minutes, and no one interfered to put an end to it. A Police Sergeant walked at the head of the demonstration - they say, with a view of maintaining order - but he did not counteract any of the excess in action and insults, which the demonstrators were committing.

In the course of the many conversations held with Your Excellency, I have suggested the necessity of clearing Gibraltar of the group of Spanish refugees, some of them dangerous. The conditions demanded by the British Government, for the return of the Spanish refugees to Spain, were considered, and the Spanish Government, acceded to them in excess, as Your Excellency is well aware. Even those, who on arrival in Spain, are liable to more penalty than that, which may have been communicated to them, may return to its residence of origin, should this occur.

I shall feel most obliged if Your Excellency, should bring to the notice of your Government, the necessity of apologising our Government, who has been insulted in the course of the two Victory days celebrations, by a group of unreliable Spaniards, who instead of going to the battlefields in one side or the other, remained in the Rock, simply to make money, and make propaganda of low politics, with a view of spoiling the normal workers that come into Gibraltar daily.

I trust that the leaders of the demonstrations, will be severely punished, as their only desire is to break the good relations existing between our two countries, and that they should be asked to leave the Fortress, due to the proximity of Spain, so tying, morally and physical to Gibraltar.

I have etc.
(Sd). I.Muguiro.

His Excellency
Lieut-General
Sir Ralph Eastwood, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

COPY.

Colonial Secretariat,
Gibraltar.

No.S.013B.

20th August, 1945.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to refer to your letter N/V of the 17th August addressed to His Excellency on the subject of the demonstration organised on the 16th August.

2. I am to say that the circumstances attending this demonstration have been investigated and that His Excellency is dissatisfied that no action was committed contrary to the laws of this Colony. I am to repeat to you the assurance conveyed verbally by His Excellency that this Government is equally interested with yourself in the maintenance of good relations between the Colony and the neighbouring Spanish administration and you may rest assured that if any action is taken by demonstrators which contravenes the laws of the Colony appropriate steps will be taken.

3. I am to say that His Excellency is unable to accept the allegations that this Government has authorised and co-operated in an insult to a neighbour Government and that His Excellency does not feel that the circumstances indicate any necessity for an apology by this Government in respect of what occurred.

I have etc.

(Sd).R.C.S.Stanley.
Colonial Secretary.

The Spanish Consul-General
at Gibraltar.



RECEIVED

16 AUG 1945

O.O. REGY

56

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

11th August, 1945.

88905/2

(WR 2192/16/48)

Dear Luke,

55 With reference to my letter WR 1922/16/48 of the 11th July about Spanish refugees in Gibraltar, I now enclose (with apologies for some delay) a copy of a letter on the subject dated 17th July, which I have received from Madrid.

I presume that you have had from Gibraltar direct the correspondence enclosed with Madrid Despatch No. 381 of the 10th July (a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience). I think you will agree that the enclosures to this despatch do not encourage high hopes for the idea of inviting the Spanish refugees in Gibraltar to return to Spain. The conditions enunciated by the Spanish authorities have the appearance of being excellent and it may be the intention of the Spanish Government that they should be applied liberally. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that such intentions will be respected by local authorities; indeed the evidence here advanced suggests the contrary. In fact we think that whatever professions the Spanish Government may make (and they will probably be very ready to make them) they will be unable to prevent instances of petty persecution and refugees cannot be blamed if they show reluctance to accept the Government's offer.

The situation, therefore, as to these refugees in Gibraltar going back to Spain does not look very hopeful, but it may be the best policy to await the list promised by Señor Castillo. It would at worst show that a certain number cannot return
/and

S.E.V. Luke, Esq.,
Colonial Office.



and at best might contain a formula which we should
be justified in considering a satisfactory assurance
for the others.

Yours sincerely
Lan. L. Henderson
for (P. Mason).

Copy.
(WR 2192/16/48).

British Embassy,
Madrid.

17th July, 1945.

Dear Paul,

In James Bowker's letter of June 14th, in reply to yours No. WR 1174/16/48 of May 14th, about the proposed return of the Spanish refugees in Gibraltar to Spain, he said that we had set on foot further enquiries.

On June 3rd Bowker discussed this question with the Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, asking whether use could be made of the new arrangements for the return to Spain of political exiles in order to solve the refugee problem in Gibraltar. Senor del Castillo was as usual receptive and said he would have the matter looked into. He thought it would be best if the Ministry were to give us a list of the refugees who would have to undergo proceedings if they came back to Spain, so that we could arrange for at least the rest to return.

Meanwhile we have received details from the Governor of Gibraltar of the instructions which, in accordance with the special new arrangements mentioned above have been sent by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to their Consul-General there. In case you had not received a copy through the Colonial Office copies were sent to you as our despatch No.381 of July 10th. You will have seen from the second enclosure to the Governor's despatch that even the guarantees which are given to certain classes of refugees are not entirely satisfactory.

We will let you know of any further developments.

A copy of this letter goes to the Governor of
Paul Mason, Esq., /Gibraltar
Foreign Office, S.W.1.

Gibraltar.

Yours ever,

(Signed) C. Bramwell.

No. 381 (114/36/45)

HIS Majesty's **Chargé d'Affaires at Madrid**
presents his compliments to **Acting Foreign Secretary**
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British.....**Embassy,**
Madrid.
.....
.....

10th July, 1945.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Mr. Bowker's letter of 14.6.45. (114/25/45) to
Description of Enclosure. **Mr. Mason, F.O.**

Name and Date.	Subject.
Copy of letter from Governor of Gibraltar to H.M. Chargé d'Affaires, Madrid, of 6th June, 1945.	Return to Spain of Spanish political refugees in Gibraltar.

Copy.

No. S.013/83.

Gibraltar,

6 June, 1945.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I was recently approached by the Spanish Consul-General here who informed me that he had received instructions from his Government to the effect that the return to Spain of the Spanish political refugees in Gibraltar would be authorized under certain conditions. A translation of these instructions is enclosed.

As requested by the Consul-General, the steps taken by the Spanish Government were notified to the Spanish refugees here, some of whom returned to Spain after complying with the required formalities.

I enclose for your information copies of two reports received on this subject from the Defence Security Officer. I am informed by this Officer that the Consul-General has made representations to his Government by telegram in connection with the case of Francisco Garcia Infante but I am unable to say with what result.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed) T.R. Eastwood.

Lt. General and
Governor.

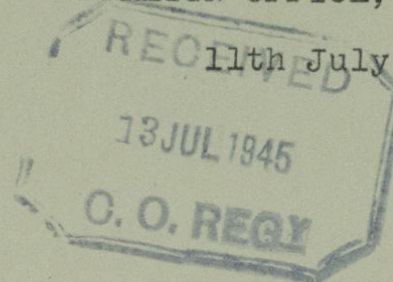
H.M. Chargé d'Affaires,
British Embassy,
Madrid.

55



FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1

11th July, 1945.



WR 1922/16/48

See 54

Dear Luke,

As I told you on the telephone, we have now had a reply from Madrid to the letter which I sent them on the 14th May, about the Spanish refugees in Gibraltar: copy of the latter letter was sent to Miles on the 14th May under our reference WR 1174/16/48.

50

I now enclose (with apologies for some delay) a copy of this letter from Madrid together with its enclosures. You will see that the Embassy are not very hopeful about being able to arrange for the refugees to return to Spain, but that they have started certain enquiries of which they will let us know the result. I will, of course, keep you informed about this.

I note with some interest that the Governor of Gibraltar apparently approached the Embassy direct last year on the subject. This was something of which I think I had not previously been informed.

54

I have now received your letter suggesting a discussion with the Colonial Secretary from Gibraltar while he is in this country. I shall of course be very glad to have a talk any time you suggest. It might perhaps also be desirable if a member of Western our Department were present as they are interested in matters dealing with Spain.

Yours sincerely.

Paul Mason

S. E. V. Luke, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

C O P Y

BRITISH EMBASSY

(114/25/45)

M A D R I D

14th June, 1945.

My dear Paul,

In your confidential letter No. W.R.1174/16/48 of May 14th you asked for my views on the possibility of arranging with the Spanish Government for the return of Spanish refugees in Gibraltar to Spain, with suitable assurances to ensure against their being persecuted on their return.

This question was raised direct with us last year by the Governor of Gibraltar. I enclose copies of the Notes which we subsequently exchanged with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As you will see they declined altogether to give us any guarantee that the Spanish refugees on return to Spain would not be subject to the normal judicial procedure, and even added that some of them at least had been and still were carrying out activities contrary to Spanish interests. This of course meant that they would all be liable to sentences of imprisonment, up to terms of 30 years, or worse.

Since then it is true that the Spanish Government have announced that arrangements have been made for settling with greater speed the case of Spaniards living abroad in exile, with a view to their being enabled to return to Spain, in cases where no criminal responsibility is found to fall upon them. Nevertheless, so far as we know, no concrete steps have yet been taken, to implement this promise and although, as reported in our despatch No. 236, the Tribunal for political responsibilities which used to deal with these cases has been abolished and replaced by a Commission of Liquidation, it is still too early to tell to what extent the procedure has been changed for the better in the case of refugees who are still abroad. Judging by the wording of the announcement of April 14th, however, and the slow progress which is apparently being made in passing the Bill of Rights into law and implementing the guarantees contained in it by detailed legislation, it must be concluded that it will still be a long time before the Spanish Government will permit the return of any large number of the refugees in Gibraltar, without the danger of their being subsequently persecuted in Spain.

Although we have set on foot further enquiries, the result of which we shall inform you as soon as it is known, I am therefore not sanguine about our chances of receiving a satisfactory reply at present. So I should not advise you to count on being able to send the refugees back to Spain at any early date.

I am sending a copy of this correspondence to His Excellency the Governor of Gibraltar.

Yours ever

signed JAMES BOWKER

Mason, Esq.,
Refugee Department,
Foreign Office,
3, Cleveland Row,
St. James's, S.W.1.

COPY

No. 759
(114/20/44)

His Majesty's Embassy present their compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and have the honour to transmit to them herewith, a list of 473 Spanish nationals, who left Spain as refugees during the Civil War and went to Gibraltar where they are still resident.

2. The Governor of Gibraltar states that the accommodation which these persons are at present occupying is urgently required for British subjects, who were evacuated in 1940 because their homes had been destroyed by enemy action or requisitioned, and who are no returning to Gibraltar. The Governor is accordingly anxious that as many as possible of the Spanish nationals named in the accompanying list should return to Spain.

3. Before taking any further steps in this connection, however, His Majesty's Embassy would be grateful to learn whether they could be furnished with a guarantee in respect of any of these persons, that in the event of their return to Spain no reprisals of any kind, direct or indirect, would be taken against them on account of their participation in the Civil War, or of their past political record. The Embassy would be grateful, therefore if a number of names could be selected from the list, of people in respect of whom the competent Spanish authorities would be prepared to give such an undertaking.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
MADRID.

16th June, 1944.

COPY TRANSLATION

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

No. 11.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs present their compliments to His Britannic Majesty's Embassy, and with reference to their Note No 759 of the 16th June last, with which was enclosed a list of 473 Spanish subjects, at present refugees in Gibraltar from where it is wished to repatriate them, have pleasure in informing the Embassy that as far as the competent Spanish authorities are concerned, there is no objection in acceding to the wishes expressed by the Governor of Gibraltar provided of course that the said refugees are subjected to the necessary political-social investigations by the competent Courts of Justice, as are all other repatriated Spaniards, as it is not possible to make an exception to this standing rule.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs considering that the Embassy will recognise the justice of the point of view of the competent Spanish authorities, have given the appropriate instructions to the Spanish Consul-General at Gibraltar regarding the most convenient manner of effecting the repatriation of the refugees concerned.

Madrid, 23rd August, 1944

TO HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S EMBASSY

COPY TRANSLATION

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

B.1. R.4 G.1 1

No. 697

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs present their compliments to His Britannic Majesty's Embassy and in reply to their Note Verbale No. 759 of the 16th June last relating to the repatriation of a group of Spanish refugees in Gibraltar, have much pleasure in acceding to the request, although they cannot withdraw the general measures fixed for such cases.

It is not possible, in effect, to limite the action of the Courts of Justice by an important diminution of their jurisdictional competence. That would be equivalent to establishing, without any possible justification, a system of exceptions in favour of this group of Spanish refugees, particularly when it is clear to this Ministry that, certainly, at least some of the persons whose repatriation is requested, have promoted and continue to promote activities contrary to the interest of Spain.

Nevertheless, in accordance with the wishes manifested by the British Embassy, the entry will be authorized of as many as requested, without prejudice to their submitting themselves entirely to the Spanish authorities, as must the rest of the citizens.

Madrid, 23rd Spetember, 1944.

HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S EMBASSY.

COPY

AIDE MEMOIRE

In their Note No. 759 of June 16th, 1944, His Majesty's Embassy presented to the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs a list of 473 Spanish nationals who left Spain as refugees during the Civil War and went to Gibraltar, where they are still resident. The Embassy asked whether they could be furnished with a guarantee in respect of any of these persons that in the event of their returning to Spain no reprisals of any kind, direct or indirect, would be taken against them on account of their participation in the Civil War and of their past political record. In their reply (Note Verbale No. 11 of August 23rd, 1944), the Ministry stated that in the event of their return to Spain the refugees in question would be subject to the same judicial treatment as all other Spanish repatriates, it being impossible to make any exception to the existing regulations in their favour.

On April 14th, however, in an official notice published in the Spanish press, special arrangements were described for settling with greater speed the case of Spaniards living abroad in exile, with a view to their being enabled to return to Spain. The Embassy would be glad to know whether it will be possible at an early date to make use of these facilities in the case of the Spanish refugees in Gibraltar in order that as many of them as possible may return to Spain without the danger of incurring penalties in connection with their activities during the Civil War and their past political record.

BRITISH EMBASSY,

MADRID

13th June, 1945.

See under 53

COPY.

TRANSLATION.

Telegram No. 71010 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressed to the Consul-General for Spain at Gibraltar.

Your Excellency will be guided by the following instructions in regard to exiles who wish to return to Spain:-

- (1) Any petitions received will be given special preference and you will provisionally detail as many of your staff as possible to deal with them so that their despatch may be expedited.
- (2) Each exile will present a sworn declaration drawn up on the lines of the model quoted below and these will be transmitted by telegraph to this Ministry who will reply in the same manner.
- (3) This having been done, you will be able to issue a Spanish passport which will also serve for travel abroad. When the person concerned arrives at his proposed place of residence in Spain his sole obligation will be to present himself within a term of 5 days to the Civil Governor or Chief of Police or, failing these, to the Mayor of the Commandant of the Civil Guard.

The sworn declaration which each petitioner will present must bear his name, two surnames, place and date of birth, a declaration that he is and considers himself Spanish, the name of his parents, profession, whether married or single, his exact place of residence before the 18th July, 1936, the place where he resided during the Civil War and a brief indication of the services he rendered during the war; the date he left Spain, the place in Spain where he wishes to reside, the names of the members of his family who wish to be repatriated with him, an indication, if possible, of two or more solvent persons residing in Spain who know him and any other such statements as each one may wish to make.

On forms which will be printed for this purpose you will include, on the reverse, the following conditions for exemption from political responsibility:-

- (1) All those are exempt from responsibility who merely played a combatant part in the Republican Army as well as those who exercised any command and are not otherwise implicated.
- (2) All those are exempt from responsibility who were not responsible, either by induction or by complication, of assassinations and who were not voluntary members of execution squads; those who have committed crimes not included in the preceding paragraph will legalise their position by remaining at liberty.
- (3) Those in Spain who were condemned by Tribunals to sentences of less than 20 years have been set free; those sentenced to periods of imprisonment varying from 20 years and 1 day to 30 years can also be considered by Tribunals which have been specially set up for this purpose if their conduct, state, health, etc., justify measures of clemency. These measures will similarly apply to exiles.
- (4) If any exile should enter Spain with the previous authorisation of the Government because he is considered exempt from responsibility or under a limited responsibility, and

/on

an error should be discovered later which renders him liable to grave responsibility, he will be permitted to return to his place of origin abroad if he so desires.

Special attention will be drawn to this last point which is an extraordinary measure of unprecedented generosity, as also to the fact that those who have participated in the form set out above in assassinations should not return to Spain and, if they do so, they are to be informed that they are not exempt from responsibility. In order to facilitate issues, I should stress that the following are not exempt from responsibility although they may derive the same measures of clemency as those in similar circumstances actually in Spain; all those who formed part of illegal tribunals which were responsible for atrocities or cruelties or who acted against the natural principles of law in force before the 18th July, 1936, as well as those who agreed with foreigners on the sale or cession of national territory or who are responsible for the expiation or extraction from national territory of treasures or works of art which were national property, unless restitution in sufficient measure to cancel their responsibility is effected.

Your Excellency may consult me telegraphically in doubtful cases as the Council of Ministers in their desire to grant the greatest measure of facilities has agreed that these cases should be dealt with as quickly as possible. Once a passport has been granted, you should send by post corresponding forms with documents and photographs and you should telegraph the approximate date and frontier through which the persons concerned will be entering Spain. For the grant of a passport it will be sufficient for the documents presented by the person concerned and his declaration to show clearly his national status. There should be no doubt either of his being a Spaniard or of his identity, even if the document in question was issued by a Central Spanish Government or its representative abroad when the latter Government may have been distinct from the present Government of Spain.

So under 53

COPY.

BN/712/24.5.45.

Subject:- Francisco GARCIA Infante.
(06/149).

1. Address : St. Mary's Schools
Age : 42 yrs. Born 11.1.03.
Trade : Employed CC Dept. DY.
Nationality : Spanish
Status : Married.

2. Francisco GARCIA Infante was a refugee in Gibraltar living at the St. Mary's Schools Centre. He is fond of drinking, and spent a lot of time in the Campana. He belonged to no refugee organisation.

3. He visited Police Permits on two occasions in April, asking if he could obtain permission to go to Spain and return, giving as reason the need to undergo an operation on his ears. This excuse sounded rather weak, and he was told that he could get the best treatment possible here in Gibraltar, and that he would not be allowed to return to Gibraltar if he left. (Source states also that he knows of no infirmity of GARCIA's that would warrant an operation.)

4. On 1.5.45 GARCIA called again at Police Permits and asked to be allowed to leave for Spain via Fourt Corners. He handed in his Identity Card and was given a note to enable him to pass the Police Post at the Frontier.

5. GARCIA is understood to have been arrested in La Linea a few days ago, was imprisoned, held incommunicado for a time, and beaten. When his wife was allowed to see him, he was crying as a result of the treatment he had received.

See under 53.

1. Source understands that so far four refugees have returned to Spain under the terms of the Political Amnesty published about three weeks or so ago.
2. He has been told that one of these men (name not known) has recounted his experience on arrival as follows:
3. On arrival he was taken to the Comisaria de Policia, and was there interviewed by the Comisario, who spoke to him in these terms: "We know that you are inimical to our Regime, or you would have returned to Spain before. We realise that you have returned to Spain not from a feeling of friendship for the Government, but in your own interests and for your own convenience, and trusting in our promise that nothing would happen to you. Well, we are keeping our promise and you have nothing to fear. But we warn you that now you are here you must inform us of all that is being thought by your other friends who have remained in Gibraltar, and what sort of propaganda they have. Furthermore, if any "pasquines" (leaflets clandestinely placed on street walls) appear in La Linea, bearing propaganda against our regime, you will be held responsible."
4. Source points out that the returning refugees are thus exonerated from all previous political activities, but are likely to find themselves held as a sort of hostage for the cessation of left-wing activity in La Linea.

SECRET

No.S.013/86.Colonial Secretariat,
Gibraltar.

18 June, 1945.

3 on
88960/45

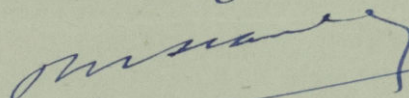
My dear Luke,

88960/45

In your letter of the 6th June (No.88960/45) you mentioned the question of the possible removal to Spain of the Spanish refugees in Gibraltar. I referred to this matter briefly in my letter of the 11th June.

I now enclose for your information copies of two reports which I received from the Defence Security Officer. The men referred to in the reports returned to Spain following instructions received by the Spanish Consul-General here from his Government to the effect that the return of the Spanish political refugees in Gibraltar would be authorised under certain conditions. I enclose a translation of these instructions which were brought to the notice of the refugees at the request of the Spanish Consul-General. In view of this unpromising start the prospects of any appreciable number of refugees returning to Spain in response to any offer or undertaking by the Spanish authorities cannot be regarded as bright.

Yours sincerely



S.E.V.Luke, Esq.,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

BN/712/24.5.45.

Subject:- Francisco GARCIA Infante
(06/149).

1. Address : St.Mary's Schools
Age : 42 yrs. Born 11.1.03.
Trade : Employed CC Dept DY.
Nationality : Spanish
Status : Married.

2. Francisco GARCIA Infante was a refugee in Gibraltar living at the St.Mary's Schools Centre. He is fond of drinking, and spent a lot of time in the Campana. He belonged to no refugee organisation.

3. He visited Police Permits on two occasions in April, asking if he could obtain permission to go to Spain and return, giving as reason the need to undergo an operation on his ears. This excuse sounded rather weak, and he was told that he could get the best treatment possible here in Gibraltar, and that he would not be allowed to return to Gibraltar if he left. (Source states also that he knows of no infirmity of GARCIA's that would warrant an operation).

4. On 1.5.45. GARCIA called again at Police Permits and asked to be allowed to leave for Spain via Four Corners. He handed in his Identity Card and was given a note to enable him to pass the Police Post at the Frontier.

5. GARCIA is understood to have been arrested in La Linea a few days ago, was imprisoned, held incomunicado for a time, and beaten. When his wife was allowed to see him, he was crying as a result of the treatment he had received.

COPY.

1. Source understands that so far four refugees have returned to Spain under the terms of the Political Amnesty published about three weeks or so ago.
2. He has been told that one of these men (name not known) has recounted his experiences on arrival as follows:
3. On arrival he was taken to the Comisaria de Policia, and was there interviewed by the Comisario, who spoke to him in these terms: "We know that you are inimical to our Regime, or you would have returned to Spain before. We realise that you have returned to Spain not from a feeling of friendship for the Government, but in your own interests and for your own convenience, and trusting in our promise that nothing would happen to you. Well, we are keeping our promise and you have nothing to fear. But we warn you that now you are here you must inform us of all that is being thought by your other friends who have remained in Gibraltar, and what sort of propaganda they have. Furthermore, if any "pasquines" (leaflets clandestinely placed on street walls) appear in La Linea, bearing propaganda against our regime, you will be held responsible."
4. Source points out that the returning refugees are this exonerated from all previous activities, but are likely to find themselves held as a sort of hostage for the cessation of left-wing activity in La Linea.

TRANSLATION.

Telegram No. 71019 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs addressed to the Consul General for Spain at Gibraltar.

Your Excellency will be guided by the following instructions in regard to exiles who wish to return to Spain:-

(1) Any petitions received will be given special preference and you will provisionally detail as many of your staff as possible to deal with them so that their despatch may be expedited.

(2) Each exile will present a sworn declaration drawn up on the lines of the model quoted below and these will be transmitted by telegraph to this Ministry who will reply in the same manner.

(3) This having been done, you will be able to issue a Spanish passport which will also serve for travel abroad. When the person concerned arrives at his proposed place of residence in Spain his sole obligation will be to present himself within a term of 5 days to the Civil Governor or Chief of Police or, failing these, to the Mayor or the Commandant of the Civil Guard.

The sworn declaration which each petitioner will present must bear his name, two surnames, place and date of birth, a declaration that he is and considers himself Spanish, the name of his parents, profession, whether married or single, his exact place of residence before the 18th July 1936, the place where he resided during the Civil War and a brief indication of the services he rendered during the war; the date he left Spain, the place in Spain where he wishes to reside, the names of the members of his family who wish to be repatriated with him, an indication, if possible, of two or more solvent persons residing in Spain who know him and any other such statements as each one may wish to make.

On forms which will be printed for this purpose you will include, on the reverse, the following conditions for exemption from political responsibility:-

(1) All those are exempt from responsibility who merely played a combatant part in the Republican Army as well as those who exercised any command and are not otherwise implicated.

(2) All those are exempt from responsibility who were not responsible, either by induction or by complication, of assassinations and who were not voluntary members of execution squads; those who have committed crimes not included in the preceding paragraph will legalise their position by remaining at liberty.

(3) Those in Spain who were condemned by Tribunals to sentences of less than 20 years have been set free; those sentenced to periods of imprisonment varying from 20 years and 1 day to 30 years can also be considered by Tribunals which have been specially set up for this purpose if their conduct, state, health, etc. justify measures of clemency. These measures will similarly apply to exiles.

(4) If any exile should enter Spain with the previous authorisation of the Government because he is considered exempt from responsibility or under a limited responsibility, and an error should be discovered later which renders him liable to grave responsibility, he will be permitted to return to his place of origin abroad if he so desires.

Special attention will be drawn to this last point which is an extraordinary measure of unprecedented generosity, as also to the fact that those who have participated in the form set out above in assassinations should not return to Spain and, if they do so, they are to be informed that they are not exempt from responsibility. In order to facilitate issues, I should stress that the following are not exempt

exempt from responsibility although they may derive the same measures of clemency as those in similar circumstances actually in Spain: all those who formed part of illegal tribunals which were responsible for atrocities or cruelties or who acted against the natural principles of law in force before the 18th July 1936, as well as those who agreed with foreigners on the sale or cession of national territory or who are responsible for the expoliation or extraction from national territory of treasures or works of art which were national property, unless restitution in sufficient measure to cancel their responsibility is effected.

Your Excellency may consult me telegraphically in doubtful cases as the Council of Ministers in their desire to grant the greatest measure of facilities has agreed that these cases should be dealt with as quickly as possible. Once a passport has been granted, you should send by post corresponding forms with documents and photographs and you should telegraph the approximate date and frontier through which the persons concerned will be entering Spain. For the grant of a passport it will be sufficient for the documents presented by the person concerned and his declaration to show clearly his national status. There should be no doubt either of his being a Spaniard or of his identity, even if the document in question was issued by a Central Spanish Government or its representative abroad when the latter Government may have been distinct from the present Government of Spain.

Whether married or single, his exact place of residence before the 18th July 1936, the place where he resided during the Civil War and a brief indication of the services he rendered during the war; the date he left Spain, the place in Spain where he wished to reside, the names of the members of his family who wish to be repatriated with him, an indication, if possible, of two or more solvent persons residing in Spain who know him and any other such statements as each one may wish to make.

On forms which will be printed for this purpose you will indicate, on the reverse, the following conditions for exemption from political responsibility:-

(1) All those who are exempt from responsibility who merely played a combatant part in the Republican Army as well as those who exercised any command and are not otherwise implicated.

(2) All those who are exempt from responsibility who were not responsible, either by induction or by complicity, or assassination and who were not volunteer members of execution squads; those who have committed crimes not included in the preceding paragraph will legalize their position by remaining at liberty.

(3) Those in Spain who were condemned by Tribunals to sentences of less than 30 years have been set free; those sentenced to periods of imprisonment varying from 30 years and 1 day to 30 years can also be considered by Tribunals which have been specially set up for this purpose in their conduct, state, health, etc. Justify measures of clemency. These measures will similarly apply to exiles.

(4) If any exile should enter Spain with the previous authorization of the Government because he is considered exempt from responsibility under a limited responsibility, and an error should be discovered later which renders him liable to grave responsibility, he will be permitted to return to his place of origin should it be so desired.

Special attention will be drawn to this last point which is an extraordinary measure of unprecedented generosity, as also to the fact that those who have participated in the war set out above in assassinations should not return to Spain and, if they do so, they are to be informed that they are not exempt from responsibility. In order to facilitate issues, I should stress that the following are not exempt

in 88905/21/45

51

2335

E.W.J.
9.3.45.

TERMINAL CENSORSHIP GIBRALTAR.

RECORDS NO. GIB/TER.P.142/45.

AIRMAIL

RECD. NO. 2782

FROM:

TO:

G. Feres,
New Mile House,
Mess Staff,
Gibraltar.

N. Martin Cantol,
76 Frobisher Road
London.

DATE OF LETTER 12.2.45.

PREVIOUS REFERENCES
IF RELEVANT.

STATION DISTRIBUTION

DISPOSAL OF ORIGINAL COMMUNICATION

P.1408/44.

Copy to:

ORIGINAL LETTER SENT TO LONDON

P.1511/44.

D.S.O.
Gibraltar.

Letter attached.

EXAMINER

EXAM. DATE

TYPING DATE

A/6067

17.2.45.

19.2.45.

SUBMITTED TO: ORIGINAL

M.I.5.

S.E.

FID

INF

D.R.W.

CAN

FORD

COL

15 MAR 1945

COMMENT

Spanish Politics.

N.B. Your SEC 3615 of 19.4.44. (Secret) refers.

Extract

Translation from Spanish.

"Dear friend,

Your letter of the 11th December last has reached me safely; we found the contents very agreeable reading. I also received some Circulars from the Coordinating Committee, in which a minute information in respect of the "Liberation movement" is given. They have already been read by our comrades and also by many of our fellow-patriots living in Spain, and they are highly pleased with the contents.

I have also received Prieto's address to the Parliamentary socialist minority two copies of "Adelante" and several others from Spain.

With reference to our Press, you may know that it is being read in Madrid, after Ruelva and Bilbao. I believe that the Report issued in the Coordination Committee, will be very useful and instructive in Spain if it reaches our friends there.

With regard to the weekly paper "Espana" I think the forwarding of 30 copies of it, would be a very good idea. If you could manage to have them sent direct from Mexico instead of via London, it would save time, considering that a periodical review loses interest if it takes too long in coming. Well, the matter is in your hands and you will surely make the best of it. I can make a monthly remittance to you for the subscription if it suits your convenience.

I am herewith enclosing a clandestine circular that has been sent to us from Spain. It is not of our Party, but it is very interesting as an indication of the position of those comrades who subscribe to it, and have leanings towards all left wing parties.

/I am

I am also enclosing a leaflet distributed at Linares by the Phalanx several weeks ago, but it is curious to observe that no mention is made of the Leader (Franco). I guess those fellows are suspicious of 50% of their gang, as the proverb goes.

It seems there is trouble in Spain. An order has been recently issued ordering the handing in of all kinds of firearms held by civilians. The shooting squads continue in activity. In Madrid more than 60 people have been shot. In Malaga several have been executed. Nevertheless, the public opinion is hostile to the Phalanx and to Franco's repressive machine. The armed guard, a corps similar to the "Gestapo" has become even more hateful than the Civil Guards ever were. On the other hand, the favourable War news for the Allies, is heard with pleasure by our countrymen. Our fellows in prison had made an idol of Churchill, although they received a cold shower when Mr. Churchill made that speech when he almost praised Franco. I hope that when they come to know of Mr. Churchill's answer to the Dictator's letter, they will come round, and start thinking again of the Atlantic Charter.

There is a group of friends in Madrid that extracts typewritten copies of all interesting points of the anti-fascist newspapers, of the Exterior. Thus all can read them. A personal friend of theirs is the treasurer of the Democratic Alliance in the prison cell where he "resides". We have already materially helped him and other comrades inside the same prison. We have also made them aware of your greetings and the greetings of the London comrades, and also we have expressed your own hopes of being able to embrace them soon.

Serna sends his best regards to you, and wants to know if you have received a letter from him. Pepe, the brother of another friend of yours, has been set at liberty but has been deported to Malaga.

With reference to your wishes of obtaining copy of the "Socialist" paper, I must say that I can do nothing about it now. Nevertheless I shall do my best to find one for you. It must have been sent to Mexico by post. If so, perhaps "Solidaridad Obreros" in the Mexican capital has got it. There may be a copy of it left on this side, if so, I shall try to get it for you.

We are cognisant through the press, with the International Meeting of the Trade Unions. I understand that the Spanish Committee in attendance is composed of Comrades: Prieto, Belarmino Tomas and Araquistain, besides Pascual Tomas and Trifon Gomez. Please keep us posted with the resolutions of the Congress in respect of our cause.

Please try to clear up for us those matters related with the Syndicalist Party. Here, the following are in accordance with the "Democratic Alliance":- The Socialist party, the C.N.T. and U.G.T. On the other hand the Republicans do not seem to be interested, because the Syndicalist party is not included in it. There is a group here belonging to that party, and the Republicans believe that they should be accepted in the Alliance. Yet, the C.N.T. is opposed to it.

Our fellow-countrymen are very much interested with the political position of the exiled. You will be able to form an idea of it, when I tell you that here, whenever the press publishes any news referring to their activities, the paper, published in Spain in this place is read with great avidity principally by the Spanish workmen that come to Gib. and then return to Spain. I have sometimes to hunt for a copy of it and borrow it from somebody else in order to read it. They are sold out very quickly.

In case the Coordination Committee makes any further Report, please send me a copy of it, so that we may know how things stand over there.

Your greetings to our Comrades in prison have been already sent to them. We did that in advance, as Benitez managed to send a message to them advising them of your presence and the presence of other comrades there, and they are all very glad to learn that you are all "working together."

They are again offering a pension to the widows of those shot by Franco, pensions granted by the State, but these widows are made to sign a declaration to the effect that their husbands were killed in battle or died a natural death.

No more for the present, ever at your command. Your affectionate friend and comrade,

(Signed.) GUILLERMO PARES.

NATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF LABOUR
REGIONAL FEDERATION OF THE GIBRALTAR DISTRICT (Spanish)

To the people:-

As a responsible party in the liberating activities true to our own conscience and the welfare of Spain, we herewith express ourselves by means of these lines, so as to make known to all concerned, our conduct and position in these decisive moments through which Mankind is passing. The National Confederation of labour, in view of the exceptional circumstances now prevailing in Spain, and also in honour of the working classes, entered primarily into a Pact of Union with its Syndicalist sister U.G.T. - General Workers Union (this Unity has always been the maximum aspiration of Spanish workmen), and this latter U.G.T. has since joined the other parties of the left, thus forming the "National Alliance of Democratic forces". This Alliance is composed of the C.N.T., U.G.T., Spanish workmen's Socialist Party, and every other Republican party of the left wing.

There is only one party of the left that does not form a part of the above Alliance, that is, the Communist Party (except some comprehensive groups). The Communist party is not allowed to join the Alliance in question, because they took upon themselves the formation of a "Supreme Board of National Unity"; where Catholics, landowners, conservatives, military, police forces and others are comprised in the scheme, and all of those who are afraid of reprisals wish, of course, to join that National Unity scheme as a refuge for themselves. A democratic Government in power would exact justifiable retribution from them, and they are frightened of the consequences. Of course, we members of the C.N.T. are not disposed to admit such proceedings from such friends as shared with us, our misfortunes and our sorrows, and who could afford to give birth to heroes, in the struggle of the people against fascism, and who linked to us, died facing the execution squad. The idea of collaborating with those that represented terror and massacre, crime and infamy, oppressive and tyranny, that enemy of ours, that common enemy who stood in their trenches against us, such a short time ago, who made no distinction among us in their terrible courts martial, who ordered mass executions for all of us, socialists, communists, anarchists, ugetists and republicans; that enemy cannot be with us now, because the armies of the United Nations are destroying German Nazism, the last bulwark of fascism and in this fact, they begin to feel that retribution is near. No, it cannot be, we must keep the enemy in front of us. All anti-fascists must fight together and thus we shall constitute a strong force. "But without them and against them." We must not have anything to do with the enemy. We must avoid any approach to them, even in a circumstantial manner. The enemy is very near collapsing by themselves. We can give them the final and definite push, but never allow the "mistaken" or "repented" ones to join us.

All Spaniards should be considered as "brethren", agreed, but only those that fought and are fighting now for the liberation of Spain. The others, those that introduced us as enemies of our Country, to our own people and to foreign ones, those that refused to us the right of calling ourselves Spaniards, those who infested our land with Germans, Moors, Italians and other fascist makers, those that tried to drown in blood the most sublime and human feature, Liberty, those... those cannot be called "brethren", they prostituted themselves creating another caste, with which they wanted to destroy us, and sink us into the most object of opprobrium.

Never with them!
For the sake of our heroes fighting against them!
For the sake of so many that have shed their blood still
warm, martyrs of one party or other!
For the sake of our conscience in History!

We, of the Confederation, are not unyielding, but we are
just, and we want to give ourselves to the people as such. We
want the Country to judge us. Let worthy and honest patriots,
who desire the independence and welfare of Spain form their
judgment of us.

Friends, Comrades, Companions! Parties whose followers fought
in Union for the same cause, and who gave their lives for it, who
lie in prison cells, bound with the same chain facing the same
executors!

Beware the tragedy of our martyred Country;
Let us keep together free of Party ambitions;
Let us give a lesson of good sense and social behaviour to
the World and to History!

14-1 Rules. Colonial Office.

FOREIGN OFFICE, *Copies to: - Pay.*
(Refugee Department),
3, Cleveland Row,
St. James's,
S. W. 1.

19 MAY 1945

(WR 1174/16/48)

With the Compliments
of the
Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

12th May, 1945.

CONFIDENTIAL

50
Confidential

HH Reg. C.O. Letter 88905/21/44

My dear Jim,

y 29th Mar. 1945.

I send you herewith a copy of a letter which I sent to Sir Herbert Emerson of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees of the 10th April and of his reply to me of the 24th April, regarding the problem of a number of Spanish political refugees who have been in Gibraltar for some years but who can now no longer be retained there since they are occupying space required by Gibraltarians returning from this country. I hope that these letters are reasonably self-explanatory, but there are one or two points on which I should add something.

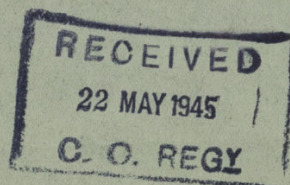
We have to accept it that these Spaniards must move out of Gibraltar, and have for some time been considering where they might go. No other place of temporary asylum is possible in British colonial territory and we considered some little time back whether some Latin-American country might respond to a request to receive them. We went so far as to sound Ogilvie Forbes as to whether the Venezuelan Government might be likely to oblige and received his personal view that they might indeed be ready to do so. Before pursuing this point further we decided first of all to find out whether the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees would have an interest in the fate of these refugees and in re-settling them, and you will see from Emerson's letter of the 24th April that the answer is affirmative, though it would be somewhat embarrassing for us to raise the matter formally with them. We have been coming more and more to the conclusion, however, that before taking any more formal steps about other places of settlement, we ought to make sure that it is impossible at any rate for some of them to return to Spain since on general grounds it is clearly undesirable to move refugees about the world in the manner proposed if this can be avoided.

I enclose a list, furnished by the Gibraltar Authorities, of the refugees in question, together with a few appended comments by the Gibraltar Police authorities. I should be grateful to have this back in due course, though there is of course no objection to your keeping a copy if you wish.

You will see that many of these men have been in Gibraltar since July 1936, and it seems possible that they merely fled in the early stages of the Civil War in order to avoid getting taken up in Franco's forces and that they have not actually committed any acts of aggression against Franco which could be held against them. You will also see that in many cases these men's families still remain in Spain and, so far as we know, the Spanish Authorities have not persecuted the families on the ground of these men's flight.

In all the circumstances we have been wondering whether it is not possible that the Spanish Authorities, if approached, would agree that/

R. J. Bowker, Esq.,
Madrid.



that these men or some of them should now be able to return to Spain and would be prepared to give proper assurances that, if they returned, they would not be subject to penalties or persecution on the ground of their original flight. I see from your telegram No. 299 that the Spanish Government are in fact planning to bring in legislation designed to enable political exiles to return to Spain with a guarantee of enjoyment of full civil rights and protection against persecution. But as you say everything depends on whether this and the other projected laws will be strictly enforced and whether the authorities charged with enforcing them will be protected from any form of political pressure. The exiles themselves judging General Franco by his past record, are likely to be intensely suspicious.

It would however, clearly be a great help, both to the Government of Gibraltar and to ourselves, if it were possible to present the refugees with the alternative of returning to Spain, subject to reasonable assurances, or of being transferred elsewhere because there was no room for them in Gibraltar.

I should be very grateful for your views on this point. You may think it both possible and desirable to take some soundings at this stage of the appropriate Spanish authorities.

We should also be grateful for your advice, in the event of preliminary soundings proving favourable, how best next to proceed and how we should set about getting the assurances which we should require. We should presumably have to make a formal approach to the Spanish Government at that stage, and you will be able to advise us in what form the request for assurance should be made with the best chance of securing a proper safeguard for those who return. It would, I think, have to be made clear that we could not forcibly deport them over the Spanish frontier. We could merely put very strong pressure on them to return and make it clear that if they did not they could not remain in Gibraltar and some other destination would have to be found for them (presumably with relatively little chance of their getting home subsequently).

I hope that I may hear from you at an early date on this as until we know where we stand about these refugees we are seriously handicapped in sending Gibraltarians home from this country and the latter is a matter which has political implications here.

Yours ever,

(Sgd) (P. Mason)

P.S. I enclose a list which has reached us from Gibraltar giving, for your own information, some particulars about the families of the men concerned.

(Sgd) P. M.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON REFUGEES,
11D, Regent Street,
London, S. W. 1.

1174/16/48)

230/62
/EMS

24th April, 1945.

Dear Mason,

Following the discussion the 19th April, I am now writing in reply to your letter of the 10th April, relating to the Spaniards in Gibraltar. First, as regards the question whether these persons are included in the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee. From the information available, it seems that some, at any rate, of them do come within the four corners of the mandate, although the position is not clear in regard to all of them. The early date at which some entered Gibraltar suggests that these, at any rate, did not take an active part in the Spanish Civil War, and this is also indicated by the fact that their families are living, apparently without molestation, in Spain. It seems possible that the Spanish Government may not take such a serious view of their acts of commission or omission as the persons themselves apprehend, and in this connection it may be relevant that, according to the Press, the Spanish Government has recently announced that it is prepared to take a lenient view of the past, and to consider applications for permission to return to Spain from refugees. From several points of view it seems desirable that the position should be clarified by reference to the Spanish Government. If the Spaniards at Gibraltar are able to return to Spain under satisfactory assurances of their liberty and safety, they should have the opportunity of doing so before they are constrained to leave Gibraltar for distant countries.

2. On the assumption that many, if not all, of the persons in question come within the mandate of the Intergovernmental Committee, it would, as you know, be necessary to carry out the regular procedure before the Committee gave practical assistance to them. If operational expenditure were involved, it would be necessary to obtain the agreement of the Governments of the United States of America before any expenditure was incurred. In this connection the British Government might perhaps wish to ascertain the views of the Government of the United States of America before formally raising the question. In the second place, it would be necessary to bring the matter before the Executive Committee on the question of policy. This would probably involve the implication that the assistance of the Intergovernmental Committee should extend to Spanish refugees elsewhere, and should not be confined to the group at Gibraltar. Assistance has, in fact, been given to Spanish refugees in isolated circumstances, for instance, in North Africa, but there has hitherto been no resolution of the Executive Committee extending assistance to this category as a whole, or to groups in particular countries. There is no reason to suppose that the Executive Committee would not agree to assistance being given to such groups where this was practicable and necessary, but it might not be sympathetic towards help being given to the Gibraltar group in the special circumstances of the case if the principle of assistance to other groups were doubtful.

3. From a perusal of the list of the persons involved, it appears that many of them are skilled artisans. If they have to leave Gibraltar and cannot, or will not, return to Spain, it may

be suggested that the question of allowing some of them to come to this country should be considered, where very profitable use of them could be made in the building programme.

4. As a result of the discussion, it was understood that the British Government did not, at present, wish the Intergovernmental Committee to take any action in the matter, and that should this be desired at a later stage, it would approach the Committee formally.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H.W. Emerson.

Enc. List of Spanish refugees residing in the Garrison on March 15, 1945.

Saving telegram and enclosures
received in duplicate

48

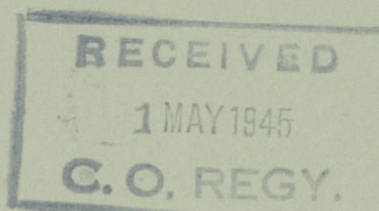
ING.

To Secretary of State for the Colonies.

From Governor, Gibraltar.

No. 190 SECRET.

Date: 18.4.45.



^{H3} My Saving telegram Secret No.130 of 17th
^{H6} March and your Secret telegram No.211. Spanish
refugees in Gibraltar.

I attach:-

- (1) A nominal roll of 454 Spanish refugees with details of ^{families and} dependants.
- (2) A summary showing the number of wives and children of the refugees resident in various places.

^{H3} The following seven names of refugees who have died or left the Colony should be deleted from the enclosure in my Secret Saving telegram No.130 of the 17th March:-

Campos Cozar, Francisco.
Narvaez Riscos, Antonio.
Rey Vasquez, Amadeo.
Rodriguez Moreno, Juan.
Sanchez Gutierrez, Francisco.
Tarrazona Sanchez, Manuel
Trujillo Martinez, Juan.

Governor.

With Mr. Paul Mason's Compliments.

FOREIGN OFFICE, (Refugee Department),

3, Cleveland Row,

St. James's, S.W.1.

CONFIDENTIAL.

10th April, 1945.

I have a rather troublesome proposition to put to you, which I think that I mentioned in passing some time ago, but on which I should now be grateful for your advice.

You may perhaps remember that last autumn I had a good deal of discussion with your Administration (I think with Dr. Kullman) regarding some Spanish political refugees who had been evacuated in 1940 on security and defence grounds from Gibraltar to Jamaica. I am not dealing with that party of refugees at the moment, and only mention them to say, that at the time when they were evacuated to Jamaica, a much larger number of other Spanish refugees were allowed to remain in Gibraltar where they were employed on work of various kinds.

These remaining refugees, all males, numbered 461 persons, and the question of their future has now become an urgent one since, as you will know, there are many Gibraltarians (who were also evacuated in the earlier part of the war) now in Northern Ireland, and both the United Kingdom Government and the Gibraltar Authorities are faced with their repatriation. Conditions in Gibraltar are so congested that every inch of living space will be required if these Gibraltarians are to return home, and the Governor of Gibraltar feels, therefore, that he has no option but to seek the removal of the Spanish refugees who have remained there.

We/

Sir Herbert Emerson, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., C.B.E.,
Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees,
11D, Regent Street,
S.W.1.

We have been considering what could be done to find alternative accommodation for these Spaniards and, after ascertaining that there was no possibility of housing them elsewhere in British colonial territory, we began to look for possible places of settlement abroad. We had some reason to think that the Venezuelan Government were ready to agree to the entry of refugees whom they regarded as suitable, and that for various reasons they might not refuse political refugees from Spain. We went so far, a little time ago, as to sound privately our Ambassador at Caracas on this subject, and he replied that he thought that it might be worth while approaching the Venezuelan Government on the subject.

We have not yet actually approached the Venezuelan Government, and before doing so, I felt that I should ask privately for your opinion whether the fate of these refugees is likely to be a matter of concern to the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees and whether the Committee would wish to take a hand in, or even to be responsible for, the question of transferring them from Gibraltar.

We have obtained from Gibraltar a list of the men in question and of their documentation and I enclose it herein. I should be grateful if you could return it in due course as it is my only copy. You will see that the party numbers, as I said earlier, 461 males and that their families are scattered in various places, some either close at hand in Spain or in what were presumably their original homes in that country, others at places like Tangier and Casablanca, while a certain number are actually in this country. You will also see, from the enclosure, that the Gibraltar Authorities consider that these men may be regarded as genuine political refugees at the present stage, in that it would be difficult for them to return under the present régime, whatever the situation may have been when they actually left Spanish territory, in many cases nearly nine years ago.

The/

The problem has this extra complication in that the Governor of Gibraltar has particularly asked whether facilities could be given for wives and families "in the neighbourhood" to accompany the refugees if arrangements for their removal are made. We do not know at the moment what extra number of people would thus be involved, and are asking the Governor to give us information about the size of the family in each case. It would clearly be only humane to arrange, if possible, for these men to be joined by their families, and we should even hope that such arrangements could extend to families who are not "in the neighbourhood", for instance, those families now in this country.

It is, of course, unsatisfactory to have to remove refugees still further away from their original homes, but, short of a major internal change in Spain (and it would be unsafe to bank upon this at any given moment) it seems most doubtful that they could return there and, as I said above, it is really an urgent matter to remove them from Gibraltar.

I am sorry to bother you with this problem and with so long a letter, but I should be most grateful for your views, both on the question of any interest which the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees may have in the matter and from the standpoint of your wide experience of such questions. I should make it quite clear that I am not, at this stage, suggesting that the matter should be brought to the notice of the Executive Committee.

I only add that if you would like to discuss the matter with myself and with the Colonial Office Officials concerned, we shall be entirely at your disposal.

(Signed) PAUL MASON.

C.O.

DRAFT AND RECORD COPY

44

LETTER
SENT

REGISTERED No.

88905/21/44

Downing Street,

DATE.

S.W. 1.

29 March, 1945.

DRAFT

MR. Miles.

MR.

MR.

See 50
Dear Mason,

With reference to our conversation of yesterday, I enclose a copy of savingram No. 130 from Gibraltar, with its enclosure.

When you have seen this we should be glad to know your reaction. Possibly we might then discuss the next action to be taken.

Yours sincerely,

gd.

(Sgd) G. C. MILES.

If you need more
a few very soon
I shall be most grateful.

ENCLOSURES

Copy of 43
& encl. ✓

FURTHER ACTION

To

P. MASON, ESQ.,

Spare

Copy

SAVING.

TO Secretary of State for the Colonies.

FROM Governor Gibraltar.

No.130 SECRET.

Date. 17.3.45.

Your telegram Secret No.169 of the 13th March.
Spanish refugees in Gibraltar.

I attach a list of 461 Spanish refugees all of whom are males. As stated by Commissioner of Police in his notes the date of arrival shewn in column 3 is the date on which these persons came to stay in Gibraltar and did not return. These dates may therefore be regarded as those on which they left Spain. It is probable that all these persons would be liable to arrest if they returned to Spain and may therefore be regarded as genuine political refugees.

It will be observed that the families of these persons are scattered in various places but that a number of them are resident in La Linea. I will obtain particulars of numbers so resident but this will take a little time. I should be glad to know whether facilities could be given for wives and families in the neighbourhood to accompany the refugees if arrangements for their removal are made.

Governor.

Dup. below

43



SAVING.

To Secretary of State for the Colonies.

From Governor Gibraltar.

No. 130 SECRET.

Date: 17.3.45.



40

Your telegram Secret No. 169 of the 13th March.
Spanish refugees in Gibraltar.

(2)

I attach a list of 461 Spanish refugees all of whom are males. As stated by Commissioner of Police in his notes the date of arrival shewn in column 3 is the date on which these persons came to stay in Gibraltar and did not return. These dates may therefore be regarded as those on which they left Spain. It is probable that all these persons would be liable to arrest if they returned to Spain and may therefore be regarded as genuine political refugees.

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Governor.

35 (101/6/45)

42

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Caracas
presents his compliments to H.M.P.S of S. for For. Affairs
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned
documents.

British... Embassy.....

Caracas

Venezuela.....

21st February., 1945..

Reference to previous correspondence:

38 Our telegram No. 44 of 19/2/45, repeated Washington
Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.

Subject.

Translation of notice
from the Government press
agency published 18th
February, 1945

Immigration

Translation of official
notice published in the
press 18th February, 1945

Immigration

WR 685/16/48

G. C. Miles Esq.,
Colonial Office

38 Ref. F.O. C. W. WR 508/16/48
Dated Feb. 21st 1945
21 MAR 1945

With the Compliments
of the
Under Secretary of State
for Foreign Affairs

3479 21952-1 (4)

ALL FACILITIES WILL BE GIVEN FOR THE ENTRY OF WORKERS

Considerable economies of time and money will be achieved for immigrants. "Government Committee for Refugees."

Caracas, 18th February, 1945 (O.N.P.).-- The National Government, appreciating the urgent necessity for intensifying by all possible means the immigration of technicians, agricultural workers and artisans, is now taking a series of measures with a view to facilitating considerably the entry into the country of foreigners suitable for work, who comply with the necessary conditions of good character.

By means of various measures which have simplified the procedure necessary for obtaining in the Consulates of the Republic the correct papers for entering the country, much economy of time and money is afforded immigrants.

The facilities accorded are supplemented by measures which, with very considerable concessions, open the doors of this country to workers of all classes who desire to enter Venezuela, animated by a genuine desire to work.

These measures cover almost all nationalities, with the exception of a few which, for legal reasons or because of unsuitability for local conditions, it has not been considered desirable to admit.

The Government maintains, through the medium of the competent offices, permanent contact with the Consulates of the Republic, with organizations which deal with immigration and with many foreigners, future immigrants, with the object of interesting them in the prompt realization of their trips to this country.

The recent establishment of the Government Committee for Refugees has been a further important step in the work begun some months ago, which will culminate in the presentation to the National Congress of various substantial reforms in the laws which control the immigration, settlement and naturalization of foreigners in Venezuela.

Now, as a supplementary measure to those already taken, a service to be entitled "Labour Service" has been inaugurated, by which the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Technical Institute of Immigration and Colonization closely collaborate, for the purpose of obtaining in foreign countries such workers as may be sought by national business houses, as well as requesting for foreigners animated by the desire to come to Venezuela, positions which would permit them to start on their journey to this country with the necessary assurances.

The Technical Institute of Immigration and Colonization has frequently published notices giving the public information of the arrival of numerous immigrants who have come to Venezuela spontaneously, without assuring themselves previously of the availability of employment, and who thanks to these notices have, with little difficulty and in a short time, found positions in various activities.

The work done under these auspices has not in any way affected national labour, at present insufficient, whose protection is guaranteed by the law limiting the number of foreigners which each business house may employ.

The notice which the Institute of Immigration and Colonization is now publishing, offering the services of forty (40) families, natives of the Canary Islands, nearly all of whom are agriculturalists, and of six other individuals, is a tangible and definite beginning of this service.

TRANSLATION of Official Notice published in the Press
on the 18th February, 1945

UNITED STATES OF VENEZUELA

TECHNICAL INSTITUTE FOR IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Technical Institute of Emigration and Colonization brings to the notice of those whom it may concern that, with a view to utilizing all the methods within its power for the immigration of foreign workers, it has organized, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a service of offers and applications for employment which will collaborate effectively with agricultural, industrial, and commercial businesses in this country, when the necessary arrangements are made through the medium of the Consulates of the Republic in foreign countries, for the technicians, artisans and workmen whom they may need and whom they are unable to find in Venezuela.

The service to be established includes:

- a) Applications for foreign technicians and workmen from agricultural, industrial, commercial, etc. firms established in this country.
- b) Applications for employment in Venezuela from foreign technicians and workers prepared to emigrate to national territory.

The Institute requests the interested parties to make the necessary applications for the workers needed, which will in turn be forwarded to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to the Venezuelan Consulates, so that they may make the pertinent arrangements and transmit the offers to the applicants.

As a beginning to this new service, there are given below the names, professions and other data of the members of forty (40) families from the Canary Islands, who wish to obtain work in Venezuela and are prepared to travel at once:

(Here follows a list of names)

The Director

LAUREANO VALLENILLA LANZ



Your Reference.....

Treasury Reference S.52261



TREASURY CHAMBERS,
GREAT GEORGE STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1.
13th March, 1945.

Copy sent to Accounts.
~~*Copy sent to*~~

Dear Miles,

39 I refer to Mason's letter to you of 6th March about Spanish refugees in Gibraltar, in particular to the reference to the Treasury in the penultimate paragraph.

31 ~~38~~ I did not take any action on the previous reference in Mason's letter of 19th January because the question of ways and means of transportation seemed to be one for M.W.T. rather than the Treasury. I have now had a word with Mason who explained that he had in mind not so much the means of transportation as the allocation of expenditure thereon. Beyond that I am afraid that on present information I have no suggestion to make, but we shall, of course be prepared to consider sympathetically any proposals which may be made to us by the interested Departments.

I am sending a copy of this to Mason.

Yours sincerely,

G.C. Miles, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

C. O.

88905/21/45

Mr. Miles. 15/3 *at na*

Mr. _____

Mr. _____

Mr. _____

Mr. _____

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

NO. 169 SECRET

*Typed & Sent
14.15 hrs.
13.3.45 gg*

Ans 43

DRAFT.

TYPEX
TELEGRAM

28

GOV.

GIBRALTAR.

Your telegram No.7.

Spaniards in Gibraltar.

Grateful if you would supply by earliest

possible mail particulars of Spaniards,

including date of leaving Spain, ~~statement that~~

Whether

~~all are~~ genuine political refugees, and family

particulars (i.e. ages and whether men, women

or children). If occupation can be given

without delay or any other useful information

from point of view of emigration, grateful if

this could be added. Question of possibility

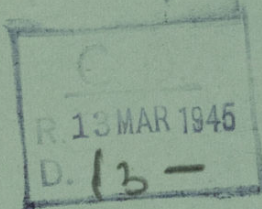
of removal to Venezuela is under discussion.

FURTHER ACTION.

Copy to

Mr. Paul Mason,
Refugee Department, 15/3
Foreign Office,
3, Cleveland Row,
St. James's
S.W.1.

Secer.





R.203 (please send up quickly) ³⁹

(WR 484/16/48)

FOREIGN OFFICE, (Refugee Department),
3, Cleveland Row,
St. James's,
S.W.1.

SECRET

6th March, 1945.

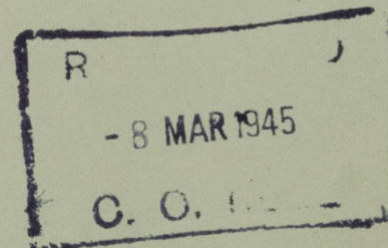
Dear Miles,

NT- R204
37 You will now have seen Caracas telegram No. 41 of the 16th February, sent to you under reference No. WR 484/16/48, in which our Ambassador says he thinks that it would be worth while sounding the Venezuelan Government about taking the Spanish refugees in Gibraltar. As I have told you orally I think we should want to inform the United States Government beforehand or perhaps simultaneously.

The first step is, however, I think to make quite sure what, if any, interest in the fate of these people the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees may take, since on this may depend not only the actual question of moving them outside British territory but also the modus operandi. In order to consult them, I think, however, that we ought to give them pretty full details of the way in which these Spaniards came to reach Gibraltar, together with the relevant date, particulars of the persons involved and any other elucidatory points. Could you perhaps let me have at your early convenience a short memorandum giving these points, so that I may be fully briefed to discuss the matter with them either in writing or round a table? Perhaps you would prefer a discussion with them at which you were present. I may say that I did mention the matter some weeks ago very much en passant to the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee and derived the impression that they did not feel the responsibility

to/

G.C. Miles Esq.,
Colonial Office.





to be theirs: but we ought to be sure about this and for that purpose they ought to be in possession of the facts. I ought perhaps to make it clear that I am not contemplating raising the matter formally with the Executive Committee of the Intergovernmental Committee (that might provoke a rather awkward discussion) but simply asking the Director to give me his considered views.

Incidentally, you will remember from my letter of the 19th January (W 70/16/48) that we said that the Foreign Office would have to disclaim financial liability in tackling this matter, and I suggested that the Treasury, to whom I sent a copy of my letter in question, would quite likely have views about ways and means of transportation for these Spaniards to Latin-America. In replying to that letter (your letter 88905/21/45 of the 1st February) you did not say whether you had been in touch with the Treasury on this point or whether you had sent a copy of your reply to them. I do not know whether you have actually been in touch with them on the matter.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Winnifrith at the Treasury and to Sir Findlater Stewart's Office at Norfolk House.

Yours sincerely
Paul Mason

(P. Mason)

SECRET 3

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

The Under Secretary of State.

Colonial Office

Copy for Mr. G.C. Files

17 FEB 1945

WR. 345/16/48.

Ref. F.A. files WR 70/16/48.

Adia Jan 1945

[CYPHER]

With the Comptroller
DEPARTMENTAL NO. 2

Under Secretary

for Foreign Affairs

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO CARACAS

No. 23

14th February, 1945

D. 2.10 a.m. 15th February, 1945

Repeated to Washington No. 1433

g g g g g

SECRET

There are at present in Gibraltar 473 (repeat four hundred and seventy-three) Spanish political refugees the majority of who at any rate have been there since the early days of the present war.

2. Governor of Gibraltar has represented that continued presence there of these Spaniards seriously impedes return to colony of Gibraltarians at present in United Kingdom since many of them will be unable to find accommodation unless Spaniards are first moved out. Colonial Office claim to be unable to find temporary destination for Spaniards elsewhere in Colonial territory.

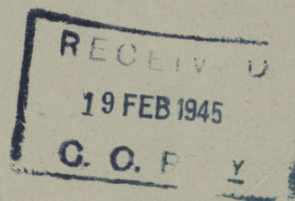
3. In these circumstances (and since Spaniards in question are not within U.N.R.R.A. mandate) we are faced with task of finding alternative destination for them, at least temporarily, elsewhere, and Latin America seems to offer one of few possible fields.

4. We have the impression that Venezuelan Government have recently shown themselves willing to encourage immigration of refugees into Venezuela. Moreover, at meeting of U.N.R.R.A. Council at Montreal last year Venezuelan delegate warmly championed cause of Spanish republicans.

5. In view of foregoing we should be grateful to learn whether in your view Venezuelan Government would be likely to respond favourably to a suggestion that these Spanish refugees should be received in Venezuela. You should not (repeat not) at this stage sound Venezuelan Government or any of your colleagues though before any approach were made to Venezuelan Government we should think it right to explain position to United States Government.

6. Grateful for an early reply.

OTP.



34

FOREIGN OFFICE
(Refugee Dept.)
3, Cleveland Row,
St. James's,
S.W.1.

29th January, 1945.

(WR 194/16/48)

Dear Miles,

30 Would you please refer to your letter 88905/21/45 of the 19th January about the possibility of further Spaniards trying to escape to Gibraltar?

There has been no change in the position as it was estimated in Mason's letter of 5th October, unless perhaps in the sense that the prospects of civil disorder in Spain appear even more remote today than they did then. Recent events have shown that the vast majority of the Spanish are desperately anxious to avoid a recurrence of civil war.

Your sincerely

I.L. Henderson

(I.L. Henderson)

G.C. Miles, Esq.,
Colonial Office.

88905/21/45 Gib.

C. O.

Mr. Luke. 30/1

Mr.

Mr.

Mr. G. E. J. Gent.

Mr. G. L. M. Clauson.

Sir C. Jeffries.

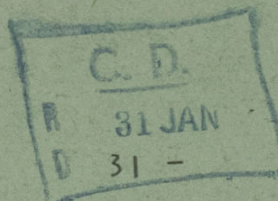
Sir A. Dawe. 31.1 p.

Sir W. Battershill.

Permt. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.



January, 1945.

1 Feb.

DRAFT letter.For Mr. Miles' signature.

Paul Mason, Esq.,

Foreign Office.

(Refugee Dept.)
 3 Cleveland Row
 St James
 SW1.

(31)

Secret.

Dear Mason

We have now had an opportunity of considering very carefully, in consultation with the Governor of Gibraltar, your letter of the 19th January (WR 70/16/48) about the 473 Spanish political refugees still in Gibraltar.

We fully realise how intractable this problem is under present conditions, and we have carefully examined your suggestion that they might be settled, at least

/temporarily,

FURTHER ACTION.

temporarily, in some other British Colonial
territory. We fully recognise the force of
your argument that by ^{that course} ~~suggestion~~ we should
^{avoid} ~~be freed from~~ any criticism ~~on~~ ^{effect} the ~~ground~~ that
we are expelling refugees from British territory.
We have therefore examined in detail the
possibilities of a transfer to another Colonial
territory, but I am afraid we do not feel able
to make any proposal to you. The reception of
refugees and internees during the war has placed
a heavy strain on the limited resources of the
Colonial Governments ~~concerned~~ and in all cases
the Colonial Governments ^{who have undertaken the reception} are most anxious to be
freed of their responsibility at the first
opportunity. We do not think that we should be
successful in securing agreement of any Colonial
Government to receive these Spaniards and, indeed,
we are doubtful whether this would provide a
satisfactory solution, even ^{arrangement} ~~as~~ a short term ~~view~~
from the point of view of the refugees themselves.
It is very unlikely that they would fit happily into

/most

Refugees, we
are clear

While this
most Colonial communities; and it is clear
~~objection might not apply to Malta, Cyprus or~~
that we cannot ask any of the Mediterranean
Governments to accept them ^{concerned} in view of the
political difficulties which would be involved.
We are very sorry to have to return

this negative reply to your proposal, but
we cannot help feeling that the suggestion
made in para 6 of your letter offers the
best hopes of a solution, and at the same
time one more likely to be acceptable to
the refugees themselves. We hope, therefore,
that you will agree to pursue this proposal
as urgently as possible. General Eastwood,
~~who is at present in this country,~~
~~during his talks here,~~ has again emphasised
~~in discussion~~
how urgent it is to find a solution in view
of the very strong feeling on the subject
held by ^{the} Gibraltarians, many of whom cannot
under present conditions return to the
Colony owing to ^{the} ~~grave~~ shortage of
accommodation.

(Sgd) G. C. MILES

NOTE OF DISCUSSION AT THE COLONIAL OFFICE ON 24th JANUARY 1945.

Present : Sir Arthur Dawe (in the Chair)
 Sir Ralph Eastwood (Governor of Gibraltar)
 Mr. Luke
 Mr. Miles

REPATRIATION

The Governor stated that there was now a garrison of some 16,000 on the Rock and that all civil living accommodation was full. Transit centres which had been established to receive people on return before they were allocated to accommodation were now full of residents for whom there was no accommodation available. The medical staff strongly objected to further returns. Seven and eleven adults, in some cases, were living in one room. Gibraltar had exceeded the rate of reception originally agreed between General Eastwood's predecessor and the Colonial Office. The Government had recently initiated a scheme for receiving from Northern Ireland those who could demonstrate by application that they had accommodation to which they could return. This accommodation would at present be occupied and it would be necessary to turn out the occupants and to find accommodation for them in some ~~decenting~~ area. At present the drainage, ~~and the~~ water, electricity and gas supplies were unduly strained. A house to house check was being carried out simultaneously both by the Resettlement Board and by the Association of Civil Rights. Available housing had been reduced by 500 buildings lost by enemy action. 2,500 Gibraltarians who formerly lived in La Linea had to be accommodated in Gibraltar. There were 500 Spaniards occupying accommodation and the Governor had been pressed to put them under canvas so that this accommodation might be used by Gibraltarians. The Governor had sent Major Patroni to investigate the possibility of using four Rute hotels in Tangier which at present were empty. This might mean accommodation for a further 800. He had not yet received Major Patroni's report. The Governor had also in mind the possibility of again using hotels in Madeira. Temporary housing was planned for the accommodation of some 1,000 persons. The Governor did not think that this could be ready in less than six months. He asked that the Colonial Office would endeavour to obtain priority for the supplies for which indents had been sent to the Crown Agents. The Governor agreed that it would be possible, by new building, to use certain sites (he instanced the Governor's Meadow on which possibly accommodation for 800 could be provided and the Alameda). It would, however, be two years, in the Governor's estimation, before buildings could be completed.

The Governor then stated that the fundamental question was whether Gibraltar in the future was to be a Class A base and whether the civil population should be fixed at a maximum figure and controlled at that figure. He mentioned, as an illustration, that in the event of an attack on Gibraltar, half its present infantry strength would be required to control the civil population who would panic. On a recent air-raid warning accidentally sounded in Gibraltar, all the population had dropped what they were doing and rushed to the shelters.

The

The Governor stated that of the land available for building, i.e. land outside military land, three-quarters was in private ownership and could only be acquired at a cost which must be regarded as prohibitive. The problem therefore must be to rebuild on Government-owned land and to arrange with the War Office to transfer land to the Colonial Government. It might also make further building space possible if both the existing Governor's residences were given up and one new house were built for the Governor. The height limit, which was formerly imposed, could now be disregarded. Sky-scrappers, however, were not practicable owing to sand foundations.

The Governor considered it of great importance that a trickle, at least, of returning evacuees should be maintained.

The appointment of the Commissioner was then discussed and the Governor agreed to the draft terms of reference which have already been prepared. As regards the cost of the Commission, it was agreed that this might be met from Gibraltar Government funds, but that if the Governor found that there was strong feeling about it in Gibraltar, the question of applying to Imperial funds might again be considered. It ^{was} agreed that it ^{was} desirable to make a statement about the appointment of a Commissioner as early as possible; that the questions of using Madeira and Tangier should also be cleared up as speedily as practicable, and that an announcement should be made in the House of Commons, as soon as the Commissioner's appointment was arranged, giving the terms of reference.

It was mentioned to the Governor that the original proposals for the appointment of a Commissioner included the suggestion that two officers should accompany the Commissioner. Details were given of these officers, but it was explained to the Governor that in view of the approach to Sir Finlater Stewart, there was no finality reached on this point. The Governor saw no objection to such officers accompanying the Commissioner. He also agreed that the Commissioner might first proceed to Northern Ireland and thereafter to Gibraltar.

The application of the British Council for sanction for a visit to Gibraltar by Miss Whitehorn was mentioned and discussed. The Governor felt that in view of the forthcoming visit by the Commissioner and also in view of the very touchy state of feeling in Gibraltar, it would be advisable not to agree to this visit at the moment. It was agreed to inform the British Council suitably that we did not desire this visit to be made at the present time.

Spaniards in Gibraltar.

The Foreign Office letter of 19th. January 1945 regarding the request from the Colonial Office for arrangements to be made for the disposal of Spaniards in Gibraltar was read to the Governor. It was agreed that it was unlikely that accommodation could be found for these Spaniards in British colonies, and that the suggestion of their movement to Venezuela or Mexico should be pressed on the Foreign Office with a view to further exploration. The Governor

stated

(31) on
88905/21/45

stated that these Spaniards had been in Gibraltar since before the evacuation and, in the main, were employed in the dockyard. They included some who were not primarily political refugees. It was agreed to inform the Gibraltar Government that, after discussions with the Governor, the Foreign Office had been asked to explore further the possibilities of making arrangements for these Spaniards.

Closing of the Frontier in the event of trouble in Spain.

X The Governor stated that if there was an outbreak in Spain he would close the frontier. It was not possible in present conditions in Gibraltar to receive Spaniards in the event of trouble, not only because Gibraltarians themselves were unable to return for lack of accommodation, but because he had neither the food nor the military resources to cope with a substantial inrush of Spaniards. It was agreed that a letter should be written to the Foreign Office, not asking for a reply but informing them of the steps which the Governor proposed to take and the reasons for those steps.



31

FOREIGN OFFICE (Refugee Department),
3, Cleveland Row,
St. James's, S.W.1.

(WR 70/16/48)

19th January, 1945.

SECRET.

RECEIVED

20 JAN 1945

C. O. REGY

Dear Sirs,

²⁸ I am writing with reference to Gibraltar telegram No. 7 of the 4th January about the 473 Spanish political refugees still in Gibraltar and regarding our conversation the other day. I understood from you that the Governor of Gibraltar is likely to be home towards the end of the present week and that he will wish to discuss possibilities while here on leave.

⁸ 2. We have not, I am afraid, pursued very actively this point as originally raised in your Top Secret letter of the 25th September last (88905.C/44). In the first place, we had the urgent problem (for which a satisfactory, if temporary solution was found) of the Spaniards from Jamaica. In the second place, the question of other Spanish political refugees (in France) has been under consideration and we had some doubts about trying to deal in isolation with a further party. Finally, it is, of course, extremely difficult to know what to do with the Spaniards now in Gibraltar, and almost any solution is bound to result in a certain amount of odium to His Majesty's Government, since we are always trying to find destinations for refugees in other territory, and there is bound to be some comment if we now remove some from our own. However, this latter point is clearly eased by the fact that we should only be moving them in order to allow British subjects to go home, and in any case, it is clear that the problem is now an urgent one and we must deal with it as best as we can.

3. As regards possible destinations. We can, I suppose, rule out the question of their coming to this country in exchange for the Gibraltarians who will return, since I do not suppose that the Home Office would look at

/such

G.C. Miles, Esq.,
Colonial Office.



such a possibility. Again, there does not seem to be a chance of their being admitted into any other European country. We feel, for instance, that the idea of sending them to join the large number of Spanish political refugees now in France would cause serious political complications. Finally, we do not feel that it is possible to send the Spaniards from Gibraltar to a North African camp, as was done in the case of the party from Jamaica. These camps are now all under U.N.R.R.A. supervision; the refugees do not fall within the U.N.R.R.A. mandate and it would only be embarrassing in the extreme to U.N.R.R.A. if we tried to saddle them with these people, even as a temporary solution.

4. I should like to know whether the Colonial Office have considered the possibility of settling these people, at least temporarily, in some other British colonial territory. If this were possible, it would have many advantages, among them being that thereby we should be freed from any odium which ill-informed or unfriendly opinion, for instance in the United States, might place on us by suggesting that we were expelling refugees from British territory. We very much hope that there might be some possibility of reaching a solution on these lines.

5. The second alternative would perhaps be to ask the Dominions Governments whether they would take the party for the time being. At first sight, this does not look a very promising possibility.

6. The only other solution that we can think of would be to send them to some foreign country outside Europe. A Latin-American country would perhaps be the

/best.

best. We have some reason to think that the Venezuelan Government are anxious to encourage immigration and certainly their representative on the Displaced Persons Committee at the U.N.R.R.A. Council meeting at Montreal last autumn was a vociferous champion of the Spanish Republicans. Incidentally, our present Ambassador in Venezuela, Sir George Ogilvie-Forbes, was for some time Chargé d'Affaires in Spain during the civil war and probably has a good deal of the background of the Spanish refugee problem as a whole. Alternatively, it might be possible to consider asking Mexico, where as you know there are numbers of Spanish Republicans already.

7. I emphasise that this suggestion of Latin-America would not be so satisfactory as would resettlement in our own colonial territory, but it is the best that we can think of if it is quite certain that the other plan is impracticable.

8. As regards ways and means of transportation for these people to Latin-America, if that is agreed to be the only solution, no doubt the Treasury would have views, and I am sending a copy of this letter to Winnifrith. I assume that they would have to take advantage of one of the ordinary Spanish shipping lines to South America, and that His Majesty's Government would not be able to make special transport facilities available, but I should like to know what you think about this. It is perhaps a question of whether the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees should be asked whether they would be prepared to pay or assist in paying for transportation and other incidental expenses. I do not know whether they would agree, and if they were so inclined in principle, they might well think it necessary to bring the matter before their Executive Committee when we might possibly have to face some criticism of our "expulsion" of these refugees from British territory.

9. The above represents the position generally as we see it, and I should be grateful for your views on the subject as soon as you can furnish them. I expect that we

/shall

shall have to have some discussion after the Governor of Gibraltar reaches London, but the above will at least show that we have been giving some thought to this problem. Any solution other than that of resettling these people in British territory will, of course, involve an approach to the foreign Government concerned and, if they concurred in principle, it would no doubt still take a little time to fix up the actual transportation.

10. We assume that any expenditure from public funds in the removal of these refugees from Gibraltar to other territories will be borne by the Colonial Office, and we must make it clear that no acceptance of financial liability by the Foreign Office is implied by such part as we may play in tackling this problem.

Yours sincerely

Paul Mason

(P. Mason)

INWARD TELEGRAM

28

This document must be paraphrased if the communication of its contents to any person outside Government Service is authorised.

(Amended copy) Amendment underlined.
Typex

FROM GIBRALTAR (Lt. Gen. Sir T.R. Eastwood)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 4th January, 1945.

R. 4th " " 21.50 hrs.

No.7 Secret.

88905/144 Your secret telegram No. 918 of 1944. (copy seen)
Gibraltar evacuees.

88905/25 on 16/44
Commission will no (repeat no) doubt be made aware of possibilities discussed in correspondence ending with paragraph 3 of my telegram No. 896 of 1944 of transfer of party of Spanish refugees to Casablanca and I should meanwhile be most grateful to learn what progress has been possible in examination of this proposal. Apart from undesirability in regard to Spanish relations of continued presence here of these refugees, their occupation of accommodation which could otherwise be made available for expatriated Gibraltarians is a source of increasing irritation and grievance to local population. Their early removal would be regarded as an earnest of the desire of His Majesty's Government to assist speedy solution of our resettlement problem and from that aspect would have value out of all proportion to size of party which might be removed.

Distributed to:-

M.S. 25	Mr. Poynton
Secretary of State	Sir A. Dawe
Sir G. Gater	Lt. Col. Rolleston
Sir W. Battershill	Mr. Luke
Mr. Gent	Mr. Miles
Ministry of Health	Mr. F. Adams.
Min. of War Transport	Mr. A.I. Anderson.
Foreign Office	Mr. P. Mason.

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

This document must be paraphrased if the communication of its contents to any person outside Government Service is authorised.

88905/44

Typex

TO GIBRALTAR (Lt. Gen. Sir T.R. Eastwood)

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES

Sent 11th December, 1944. 22.00 hrs.

No.918 Secret.

Your despatch No.92 Secret. Gibraltarian
evacuees.

The problem of the disposal of the evacuees is causing increasing difficulties here and I fear that it is likely to become a source of trouble both to you and to me. I have been forced to the conclusion that it would be desirable to appoint a responsible person as a Commissioner to examine the whole question, consult with the various Departments and authorities concerned and advise us as to the steps which can be taken to solve the problem.

2. My idea would be that the Commissioner should visit the camp in Northern Ireland and then proceed to Gibraltar to go into the matter with you. He might also, if arrangements could be made, at some stage visit Madeira.

3. I should propose that he should be accompanied by two technical officers. The person I have in mind as Commissioner is Lord Rennell, who I think would manage such a mission very well: but so far I have made no approach to him.

4. The Minister of Health is in entire agreement with my proposal and I am in consultation with the Service Departments upon it.

5./

5. The position at this end has been explained fully to Stanley, who at my request was present at a deputation from the Northern Ireland evacuees which was received here on the 6th December by the Duke of Devonshire on my behalf. He will give you the background on arrival.

6. The purpose of this telegram is to let you know ad interim that this proposal is under consideration. I will consult you further upon it as soon as I have received replies from the other Ministers concerned.

7. In putting proposal to Ministers in charge of Service Departments, I have asked them not to say anything on it to their local representatives pending my consultation with you.

Distributed to:-

M.S.25
Secretary of State
Sir G. Gater
Sir W. Betterhill
Mr. Gent
Mr. Poynton
Lt. Col. Rolleston
Mr. Acheson
Mr. Miles
Sir A. Dawe

88505/21

10

MINISTRY OF HEALTH,

Our Ref.

WHITEHALL, LONDON, S.W.1

Your Ref.

2nd October, 1944.

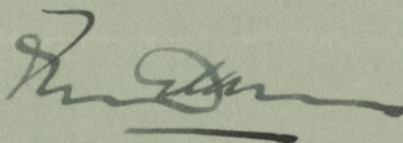
Dear Miles,

98905/c/x4

Gibraltar Telegram 848.
Paragraph 2.

7 I think I mentioned at our talk on the 25th September about Spanish refugees how glad we should be to know that they were being removed from Gibraltar. Their presence in Gibraltar certainly evokes criticism and discontent among the evacuees in the United Kingdom, and their removal would, I hope, enable Gibraltar to receive a few more Gibraltarians from the United Kingdom.

Yours sincerely,



G.C. Miles, Esq.,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

8

Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

25th September, 1944.

88905.C./44

TOP SECRET

Dear Mason,

May I refer to our conversation of this morning in regard to Spaniards evacuated from Gibraltar with the civilian population. In 1940, because of necessities of defence, the whole civil population of Gibraltar, except those whose work was essential for defence purposes, was compulsorily evacuated. Some came to this country, some went to Madeira and some went to Jamaica. With them were evacuated a number of Spaniards who happened to be in Gibraltar as political refugees from Spain. There are also at the moment in Gibraltar some of these political refugees from Spain who, presumably because they were working, were not evacuated in 1940. Owing to lack of accommodation there are some 9,000 Gibraltarians now outside Gibraltar and unable to return. There is, of course intense feeling on the subject of priority of return. So much for the background. The problems which we have to solve at the moment are:-

(a) Arrangements have been made for the Gibraltarians in Jamaica to return to Gibraltar, embark on the 2nd October. With them are 98 Spaniards. The Governor of Gibraltar is unable to accept these Spaniards because of his accommodation difficulties. The Governor of Jamaica is unwilling to keep them, and the Ministry of Health and the Home Office cannot agree to their coming to this country.

(b) There are in Gibraltar 473 Spaniards. On the subject of these I enclose copies of the Governor's

P. MASON, ESQ.

8
Governor's despatches No.53 of the 2nd August, and No.63 of the 4th September. It is very desirable that arrangements should be made as soon as possible for these Spaniards to leave Gibraltar in order to ease the accommodation problems of the legitimate population.

(d) There are some 250 Spaniards in this country and in Northern Ireland who came with the evacuees. Though their problem is less urgent it will have to be solved. It is unlikely that any but a small minority can be permitted to settle in Gibraltar. The small minority would be a few whose associations with Gibraltar have covered a long period of time.

I am, therefore, writing to ask whether arrangements could be made as a matter of immediate urgency to receive the 98 Spaniards from Jamaica in a Refugee Camp in ^{North} South Africa. If their reception can be agreed would it be possible to move them immediately on arrival in Gibraltar (some time between the 24th and the 27th of October)? It seems quite clear that Gibraltar cannot make even temporary arrangements for their accommodation.

Less urgently, as a decision is not a matter of hours - can similar arrangements be made to receive the 473 Spaniards now in the Colony? Thirdly, would it be possible for the Spaniards now in this country to be transferred in the same way? Finally, assuming that the Governor is right and that further internal disorder occurs in Spain with the result that Spaniards in danger of their lives try to escape into Gibraltar, would it be practicable to arrange some means by which they can be removed from Gibraltar immediately so that no problem of accommodation falls on the Gibraltar Government? It does not seem to me that there is any means of doing this except by having ships ready for when the emergency arises so that they can go straight on board.

It is almost impossible to exaggerate the difficulties of the accommodation position in Gibraltar at the moment. Before the war it was overcrowded and /there

there were bad slum conditions. Accommodation has been lost for a variety of reasons and there is obviously no prospect of getting the legitimate population rehoused without a heavy programme of rebuilding. So long as the legitimate population cannot enter the country of their domicile it seems clear that the point is reached where charity must be limited by common sense and where the Government is really unable to offer hospitality to foreigners.

I do not think we can hold over the Jamaica matter later than the 28th, I should, therefore, be very grateful if you could let me have any news by telephone.

Yours sincerely,

G. E. Riley

On 25/9/44 I discussed with Mr. F. Adams (Ministry of Health) and Mr. W.B. Lyon (Home Office) the question of:

- (a) the 98 Spaniards in Jamaica;
- (b) the 473 Spaniards in Gibraltar; and
- (c) the 250 (approximately) Spaniards in the U.K.

I pointed out that an urgent decision must be taken on (a) and that the Governor of Gibraltar had represented very strongly that he could not take these 98 Spaniards into Gibraltar. I pointed out that because of difficulties of accommodation some 9,000 Gibraltarians were unable to return and that, apart from the present parties totalling about 1,800, it was impossible at present to make plans for any more to go back. Even 98 persons constituted a great problem for Gibraltar in the present conditions. Moreover, the return of 98 Spaniards at this juncture in view of the almost hysterical feeling in Gibraltar might lead to serious trouble. I felt, therefore, that if possible we ought to support the Governor of Gibraltar. There then remained Jamaica and this country. The Governor of Jamaica has stated that he was not prepared to keep them there. In Jamaica they could not work. It was desirable to clear out the whole Gibraltarian Evacuee Camp at once, if they were left behind problem of transporting this small number would be more difficult than a larger number (I have previously discussed this with Mr. A.I. Anderson of the M.W.T.) and in view of the passage position they would have to remain there indefinitely. I was attracted by the solution of sending them to this country where such a small number could make no difference and where they could be joined with the 250 as a problem to be solved not quite so much in a hurry.

I pointed out that we had put strongly to Gibraltar the question of the Governor of Jamaica that Gibraltar should take them back and I felt that there was nothing more we could say to Gibraltar on the point. The Governor of Gibraltar's reply was, I felt, convincing.

Mr. Lyon, for the Home Office, and Mr. Adams, for the Ministry of Health, said that so far as their
/Ministers

Ministers were concerned they were quite unable to agree to these people coming to this country. Mr. Lyon said that in view of the policy laid down already this would constitute an exception which his Minister would have to deal with personally. Mr. Adams said that he could not accept this party. The accommodation position in this country had already been explained. He had to resist any more evacuees or refugees being brought into this country. If they were brought in they could only be put in Northern Ireland, and he felt that it would not be humane straight from Jamaica to Northern Ireland. He added that he was strongly opposed to these people being sent to Gibraltar. Great feeling had been aroused among the evacuees in this country on the question of Spaniards, some of whom had already got back to Gibraltar through mistakes in the lists received from Gibraltar. There would undoubtedly be strong re-actions from the evacuees here if it were known that 98 Spaniards had got in ahead of them.

We then considered whether there was any alternative to them remaining in Jamaica. I explained that I had discussed the matter with Mr. Anderson of M.W.T. who thought that in view of the passage position from Jamaica and the fact that 98 was not large enough for a special ship, they might have to stay there a long time. The ship was not going to Gibraltar via the U.K. and if the Spaniards were going to a destination other than Gibraltar they would have to be unloaded in the U.S.A. which would need a deal of arranging.

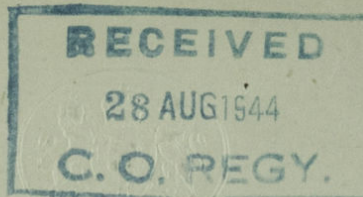
I then asked the meeting whether there was any other alternative to their remaining in Jamaica. Mr. Lyon said that he thought that both this party of 98 and the Gibraltar party of 473 might possibly be sent to a camp in North Africa (possibly Tedhela) maintained by U.N.R.R.A. for refugees who were unable to return to their own country. He suggested that I should get in touch with the Refugees Department in the Foreign Office. I then spoke on the telephone to Mr. P. Mason, Refugees Department, Foreign Office, 3, Cleveland Row, W.1. (Whitehall 5433) I put the case to him. He said that it would have to be considered by the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees. If we were to write to him urgently he would try to get some sort of a decision about the 98 in Jamaica within a few days. The points I put to him were:

- (a) if these 98 were sent to Gibraltar could they
/be

be transferred to a Refugee Camp rapidly?

(b) Similarly could the 473 in Gibraltar be dealt with in this way, though perhaps not so rapidly.

I am, therefore, writing to Mr. Mason. It seems unlikely that we shall get a decision in time and if nothing is decided before the 27th September I think we shall have to telegraph to Jamaica and Gibraltar a decision that any Spaniards whom the Government of Gibraltar decides not to accept must remain in Jamaica until further notice.



3

SECRET.

GIBRALTAR.

No. 53.

21 August, 1944.

88905/144(Ax)
Sir,

In a recent telegram (Top Secret No. 665 of the 8th of August) I indicated that I should be addressing you shortly on the question of Spanish political refugees in this Colony. You will be aware that during the civil war a number of refugees sought refuge in Gibraltar and that some of them were unwilling or unable to return to their own country after the conclusion of hostilities. There are still in fact some 473 in the Colony.

Their presence here and their undisguised antipathy to the present regime is naturally very unwelcome to our neighbours to whom they are objects of the deepest suspicion, every trivial incident (such as e.g. the theft of a flag from the Spanish Consul's car) being interpreted as an outward manifestation of some sinister "red" plot hatched on British soil. It has become an obsession.

The position has been rendered rather more acute by the murder, recently, on Spanish soil (i.e. on the fore-shore across the Bay) of a Carabinero and the wounding of another; the assailants are believed to have landed in a rowing boat belonging to the Defence Security Police, which was stolen from its moorings, while the shooting is believed to have been effected with weapons stolen from a para-military establishment here. Neither theft was discovered until some time after the event and it is also established that two Spanish refugees are missing from the Colony; they are said to be violently

The Right Honourable
Oliver Stanley, PC., MC., MP.,
&c., &c., &c.

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anti-^{Falange}~~Fascist~~ and while there is no evidence whatsoever to account for the crime, it is reasonable to suppose that these two men were responsible for it.

This has led to renewed charges of harbouring undesirables, if not of official complicity at a low level; the latter is, of course, sheer nonsense and I enclose a copy of the reply to the Consul-General's latest broadside. This rejoinder, bearing in mind the sabotage activities to which we have been exposed, could have been much terser, but I have no wish to exacerbate the situation.

The fact remains that so long as we give asylum to individuals who are hostile to the present regime so long will they prove a source of embarrassment to local Anglo/Spanish relations; there is the further consideration that these people are occupying accommodation which is most urgently required for our evacuated civilians.

His Majesty's Ambassador in Madrid is at present negotiating with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in regard to the re-admission to Spain of those of the refugees against whom no criminal charge has been lodged; as to the others, I can only urge that they be removed, by agreement, to some Latin American state.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient,
humble Servant,

W. E. Ashford

Lt.-General and Governor.

012.

Colonial Secretariat,

Gibraltar.

16th August, 1944.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 3rd August 1944, together with its enclosure.

It is understood that your apprehensions about the presence in Gibraltar of Spanish political refugees and the extent to which these constitute a potential embarrassment of Anglo/Spanish relationship, have been brought by you to the notice of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and His Excellency proposes to take an early opportunity of so advising the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

You are, I think, already aware that a nominal roll of Spanish nationals, now resident in Gibraltar, has already been supplied to His Majesty's Ambassador in Madrid, and that the latter is conferring with the Ministry as to the possibility of some of these persons being permitted to return to Spain, subject to an assurance that no punitive action will be taken against them.

On the general question, you will, of course, understand that it is extremely difficult for His Excellency to pin a charge of subversive activities against the present regime in Spain on an individual, or group of individuals, in the absence of any definite proof and, although he has concerted searching enquiries, no such evidence is at present available.

Señor Don Ignacio de Muguero,

Consul General for Spain

at Gibraltar.

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On the particular question of the murder of a Carabinero which led up to this correspondence, General Eastwood observes that no evidence whatsoever can be adduced ~~xxxx~~ to account for the crime, and certainly none to associate with its commission "certain officials of medium category" in this Fortress and Colony. He desires me to add that he has placed at your disposal, even at the risk of embarrassment to himself, all the information which is at present known, and has taken all possible steps to throw light on this occurrence.

The names of the two Spanish subjects missing from the Fortress, have been communicated to you as they have also been communicated to the United Kingdom Security Authorities; you may be assured that should they attempt to land in the United Kingdom or in Allied territory, they will be apprehended. The probability is, however, that they are in hiding on Spanish soil.

With renewed assurance of my high regard and personal esteem,

Believe me,

Sir,

Yours very truly,

(sgd) G. MILES CLIFFORD,

Colonial Secretary.

Understand that it is extremely difficult for his Excellency to pin a charge of subversive activities against the present regime in Spain on an individual, or group of individuals, in the absence of any definite proof and, although he has concerted searching enquiries, no such evidence is at present available.

Señor Don Ignacio de Murguía,

Consul General for Spain

at Gibraltar.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

2

Our Ref.

RECEIVED

WHITEHALL, LONDON, S.W.1.

Your Ref.

21 AUG 1944

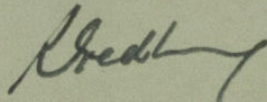
18 August, 1944.

C. O. REGY.

Dear Miles,

You may be interested in this copy of a letter we have had from Patron. The gentleman in question is not on the new priority list and indeed I should not have expected to see him there and we have replied to Patron that these are matters which only Gibraltar can settle, but I think you may be interested in it as it illustrates some of the difficulties we are going to be left with with the Spaniards. Very few of them present simple cases, they are nearly all linked with Gibraltarians in some way. It is going to be exceedingly difficult for Gibraltar to maintain them if they do not want them. I do not think there is any need for you to take up this particular case with Gibraltar.

Yours sincerely,



G. C. Miles, Esq.,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

COPY.

32, Sackville Street,
Piccadilly, W.1.

JP/FL

24th July, 1944.

Manuscript
F. Adams, Esq.,
Ministry Of Health,
Caxton House,
Tothill Street,
S.W.1.

Dear Adams,

Further to my note about the Spaniards married to Gibraltarians, I think the following case should have special attention when this matter is gone into.

There is a man, Gregorio Povedar working at North End House. He was five years in Gibraltar, is married to a Gibraltarian and has four children, two of which were born in this country.

The wife and children have gone off to Northern Ireland. He cannot go there, neither can he go back to Spain, and would have difficulty in going to Gibraltar, so it would appear impossible for him to rejoin his family who, presumably, will be sent out direct from Ireland.

I should be much obliged if you would let me know what, if anything, could be done in these cases.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) J. Patron.

